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The Highlands • Courier

24 Hours of Madness, Mayhem and Magic

The Village Playhouse was the scene of the second annual 24 Hour Theatre Project. Life partners Jim Henry and Jacquie Lopez are the producers of the 24 Hour Theatre Project, introduced to Bancroft by their company the November Theatre. The concept is daring and dangerous: theatre without a safety net. The show did not fail to deliver.

See In The Spotlight, page 4

the INSIDE SCOOP

Sawmill Restoration

Persistence is paying off for those who have worked so hard to make the Kinmount Heritage Park and the Austin Sawmill Restoration Project a reality. The story takes an interesting turn that will make believers out of the many skeptics.

The Boy Next Door

At 36, Staples had already served a life sentence for 2nd degree murder. He served 16 years, starting when he was 18 for murdering his female roommate who refused his sexual advances.

Ground Hemlock

To harvest or not to harvest. A tree that contains a chemical used in the fight against cancer is at the centre of a building controversy.

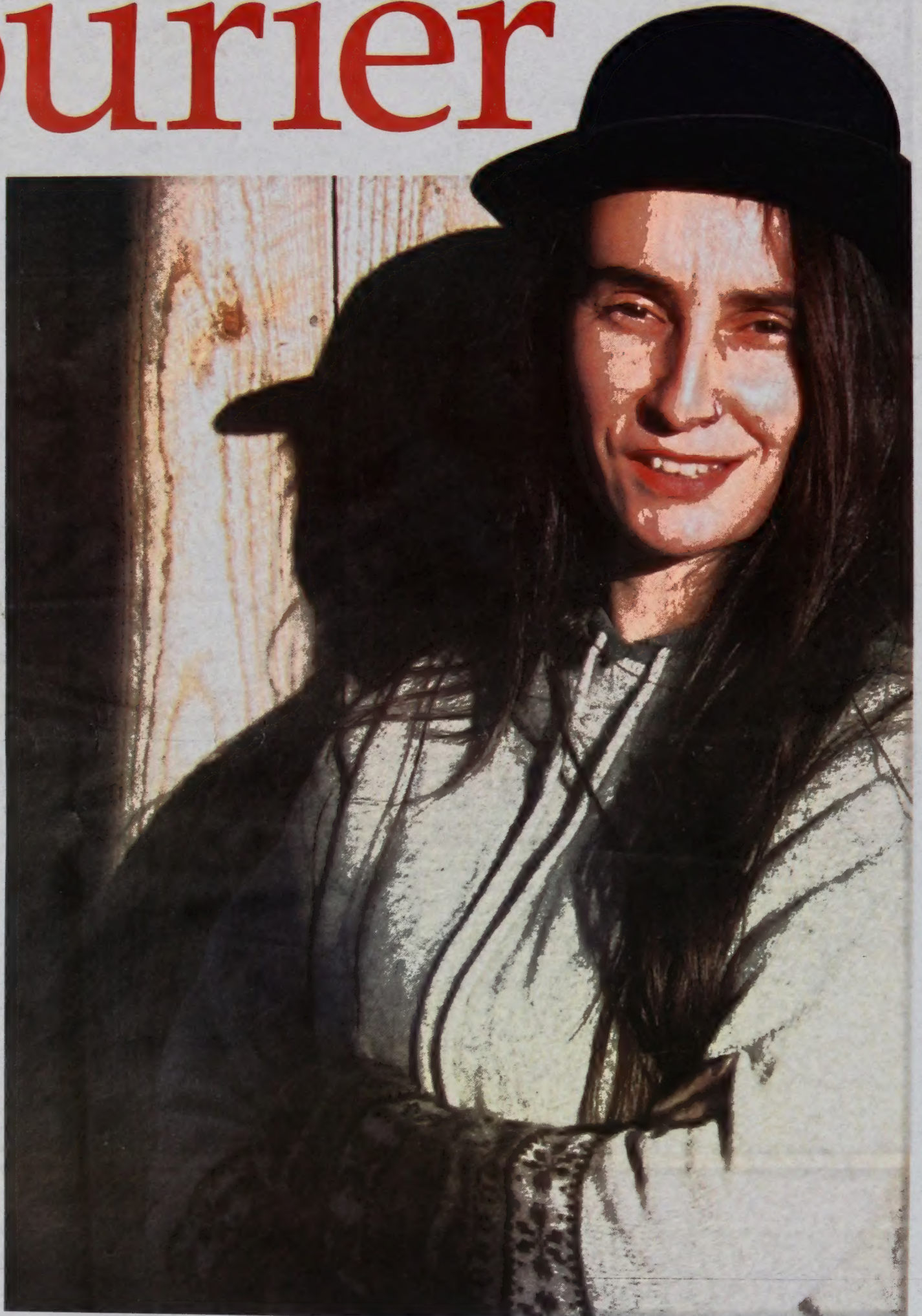


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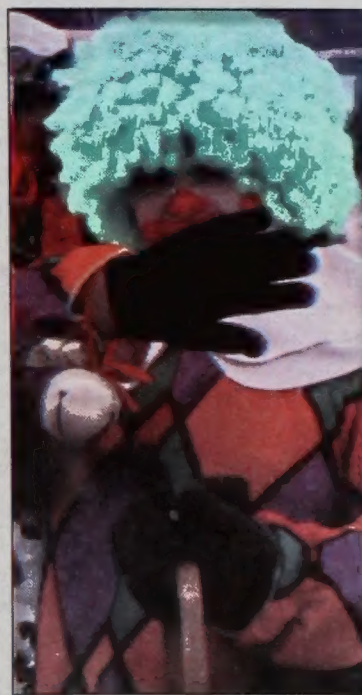


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Santa's in town

The streets of Wilberforce were cleared for Santa's arrival (of course escorted by the annual Christmas parade). Special thanks to all of Santa's helpers, that make this event happen year after year. The parade is followed by a visit with Santa at the Lloyd Watson Centre, where every child receives a gift and photo with the big guy himself.

Photos by
Melanie Lewis



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Courierupdate

Anaplastic Astro Cytoma. These words changed the life of two year old Jayde Best and her family 7 months ago. You may remember, The Highlands Courier ran a story about them during the first fundraising campaign for the family in May. We thought you might like an update.

Little Jayde has been at Toronto Sick Childrens Hospital since April 13th of this year. An aggressive tumour had grown in her head, and surgery was only the first step on a long road to recovery. It was the beginning of an emotional roller coaster for this little family. Chemotherapy. Pneumonia. Pneumatoxis: air in the belly, during which no food or liquid could be allowed, no matter how she screamed. Stem cell transplants. Progress came, the surgery was very successful, and Jayde's strength returned, lifting everyone's hopes and spirits. Then the infections came, setting the whole process back and bringing this little girl to the edge of death yet again. But Jayde has a strong and bright little spirit, and in between these hardships, she has kept her joy alive. She keeps bouncing back.

November 15th Jayde was discharged from the hospital, but remains an outpatient. She is walking again with some help. There are feeding tubes, IV lines, medical routines to keep her hydrated and infection free. Her two favourite things are "gym" (physiotherapy) and singing along to a children's gospel tape on her own tape recorder, hands waving in the air. Hospital photographers who see Jayde are captivated; her picture graces the current hospital financial report and their Christmas newsletter

Jayde will undergo an MRI again in December, which will show whether the tumour is gone for good. What a Christmas present that will be. Until then, the family will continue to stay at Ronald McDonald House. "I don't know what families would do without this place," says Jayde's mom Brandee. "One parent would be at the hospital, living in the hospital room, and the other parent would be back home with the other kids, trying to work. How would it work? We'd be all split up." She has heard the statistic that 90% of families break up under this kind of strain. "It's intense," she said.

Programs at Ronald McDonald House and the hospital are designed to relieve stress and support the entire family. Jayde's brother attends school upstairs at the House, and a siblings cancer group at the hospital. The whole family can enjoy Expressive Arts workshops; a chance to learn, play, and think of something other than illness.



The next hurdle will be to move home again. Brandee has mixed feelings. "It's scary, after 7 months, to think of going home. There will be no doctors or nurses just down the hall, we'll have to travel half an hour to the hospital for a fever. I want to tell them, let us stay until our child is free of cancer! Until we know she's ok for sure." Still, they all hope to come home in the new year. "Jayde's 3rd birthday is December 30th; wouldn't it be sweet to tell her, happy birthday, we're going home!"

Fundraising continues for the Best family. If you would like to contribute to the Jayde Best Fund, or to buy a copy of the song that was written and performed by 19 year old Michelle Overland especially for Jayde, please email dburke@north-com.net

by Genevieve Jones

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In the spotlight

by Rory McRandal

24 hours of manic madness, mayhem and marvellous magic!

On November 5th the Village Playhouse was the scene of the second annual 24 Hour Theatre Project, introduced to Bancroft by November Theatre.

The Project involves the production of 5 new plays, from concept to script to casting to rehearsing to performance. Five writers, your humble reporter among them, assembled in the Playhouse at 8:00 p.m. on the evening of November 4th to write five new plays. In the morning, five directors, again including this scribe, read through the new plays and divvied them up. Then a pool of 21 actors were briefly interviewed and cast into the various roles. The rest of the day was spent rehearsing, learning lines, figuring out set decoration, lighting, sound cues and other technical requirements until, finally, at 8:00 p.m. Saturday evening the curtain rose on five, exciting new plays.

The concept is daring and dangerous: theatre without a safety net.

For the writers there was the pressure of getting a story down on paper in a form that could be learned and performed in 12 hours (all the actors would have with the material). We worked about six hours or so on each of our scripts, stopping to confer around 11:00 p.m., hoping to produce material that would use the available pool of actors without over using them. Three writers (Mary Burbidge, Harold Eastman and Tim Fransky) set up in the lobby of the building while Kathryn Wishlow used the dressing room and I sat in the auditorium, front row centre, facing the stage.

Being the only writer who was also going to direct, I chose to remain in the theatre overnight. I slept in a sleeping bag on the carpeted floor in front of the stage, for something like three hours, before we had to get up and start the rest of the project. Jim Henry, one of the two producers of the project (along with Jacquie Lopez) also slept in the theatre, on a mattress on the stage. I awoke thinking of a king size bed in a hotel in Niagara Falls that had actually been reserved in my name for that weekend, for a business conference I ended up not attending.



Jim Henry and Jacquie Lopez are the producers of the second annual 24 Hour Theatre Project, introduced to Bancroft by their company the November Theatre. The concept is daring and dangerous: theatre without a safety net.

In the morning the directors began to filter in around 6:00 a.m. including Don Hughes, Allison Jowett, Joe Shulman and Pippa Strachan. We quickly read through the plays (I had the advantage of only having to read four plays, as I already knew and anyway would not be directing my

own work). Then we decided who would direct which play.

I chose to direct Tim Fransky's work entitled *The Stumble*. Allison Jowett got the task of directing her colleague Mary Burbidge's play *The Meeting*.

continued on Page 5



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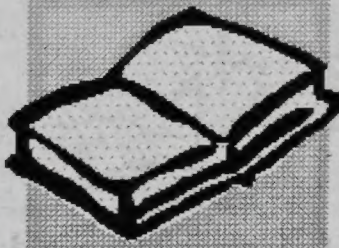
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continued from Page 4

Joe Shulman took Kathryn Wishlow's script Final Justice. Don Hughes brought his experienced hand to Harold Eastman's Sermon Preparation. This left Pippa Strachan with the burden of trying to bring my own play Wholly Mary, Mother of Todd to the stage (both she and I were delighted that she was doing it, actually).

Interviewing actors and sorting out casts took longer than was scheduled, and Jim and Jacquie managed to keep pressuring us to keep things moving without being too harsh about it. They knew how little time we'd have for the work ahead.

By now it was a little after 8:00 a.m. and we were beginning to rehearse. Each cast and director got time on the stage to work with their play, and then spent the rest of the day trying to find some obscure nook or cranny of the building and the grounds around it in which they could rehearse and hear themselves over the cacophony of voices ringing out through the day.

People were rehearsing on the balcony above the entrance to the building, on both sides of the lobby, in the space outside the kitchenette, in the dressing room, on the grassy area up behind the parking lot and, of course, on the stage.

It was high octane madness, high pressure performance, high endurance rehearsal. The actors had far less time than they needed to learn their lines, the directors had less time than they needed to learn

and interpret the work in their hands and convey their vision of it to their casts. The technical crew had less time than they needed to learn the cues and set up the needed props and set pieces.

I have often referred to my involvement in theatre as being like a drug, that it produces for me a clean, natural high. The 24 Hour Theatre Project is like mainlining the drug. The adrenaline rush is profoundly powerful.

Through the day I worked with my small cast of Chris Fouts and Wendy Travis, trying to imagine blocking for an approx. 20 ft. x 20 ft. stage area while working in spaces sometimes only 3 ft. x 10 ft., trying to find ways to help my actors to remember a heavy load of lines.

Most of the writers, myself perhaps more than anyone else, loaded their actors with too many

lines (sorry again, Abe!).

Having slept (on a hard floor!) a fitful three hours in the previous thirty-three, I hit a wall around four p.m. I took a walk down Hastings St., hoping the fresh air would revive me. With the aid of a high caffeine energy drink I regained a little bit of zip and returned to the Playhouse.

There were many incredible moments in the day. I got to spend a wonderful half-hour watching Pippa direct her terrific cast in the play I had written the night before, which was surreal and invigorating (not the play, the experience of watching others interpret my work). I spent time washing dishes and chatting with Joe Shulman, getting to know him much better than I had before. I peeked

in on many other rehearsals and saw incredible talent being rubbed raw as it chafed against the constraints of time and space.

Everyone scattered for a dinner break, and a needed rest, before filtering back into the theatre for last minute running of lines, make-up and to get ready for the 8:00 p.m. curtain.

The tension in the dressing room was palpable, actors were stressed and reacting in many different ways: some were bouncy and slightly manic; some were silent and withdrawn; some were uncharacteristically short tempered; some were excited and nervous.

When the curtain finally rose the house was full of anticipation, excitement, a

decent sized crowd and a soupçon of dread.

The show did not fail to deliver. There was some of everything in it. Certainly there was a lot of laughter. There was some drama. There were poignant moments. There were occasional pauses that went beyond pregnant, gestating to elephantine proportions if you will, as actors struggled to remember lines they'd only vaguely committed to memory. There was challenging language for both actor and audience at times. There were many things, some planned, practised and performed to a tee, some surprising to all.

More than anything, there was magic. Wild, wonderful, wanton, wicked magic.

Can hardly wait until next year.

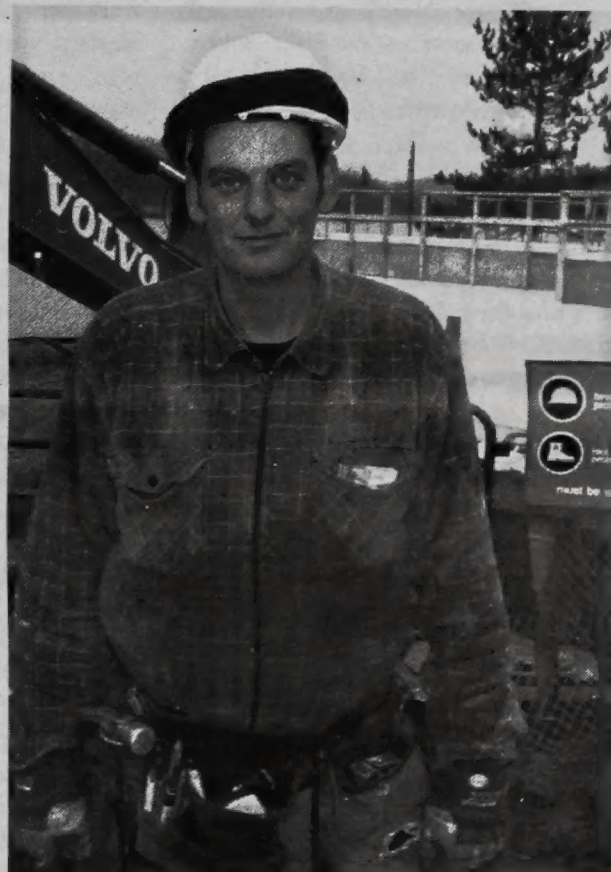
by Rory McRandall

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☆ Out and About



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We caught up with Derek Gutoskie from Gator Property Mangement at The Bear Trail Inn in Whitney. The Resort is in the process of expanding, keeping Derek and his crew busy through the winter.

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YORK

Nollaig shona duit and an athbhliain faoi mhaise duit

(Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year - whether you're Gaelic or not.)

by Peter R. Snell

For most of us, the Christmas season is a potpourri of wonderful get-togethers and the stressful scheduling of social events. The delight of getting and giving gifts mixes with the guilt of over-consumerism.

In the spirit of the season, I offer a grab-bag of tid-bits essential for any get-together that requires you to speak authoritatively about holiday facts, figures, fun, myths, miseries and mysteries.

Let's start with Rudolph's dilemma. Many moons ago, his forebears were the main course for many a feast in southern France. About 11,000 years ago, as the ice-age melted away, reindeer were pushed north in the first global warming phase. Now Rudolph and his mates, who hang out with Santa in the far north, are having a problem with global warming.

Trouble is, there's nowhere to go this time.

While Rudolph's particularly luminous nose keeps him warm, other reindeer don't have such technological wizardry for schnozzes. And they wouldn't want it either, because reindeer have a problem with the creeping warmth. They don't shed their pelts, their fur has particularly effective built-in insulators and they don't have many sweat glands to shuck off excess heat. To top things off, the warmth brings an increase in nasty blood-sucking parasites such as warble flies and tongue worms, which can drive them crazy. Talking about the parasites, experts have posited that the "celebrated discoloration of Rudolph's nose" is not due to advanced technology or regular over-sampling of Santa's liquor reserves, but rather "a parasitic infection of his respiratory system." That's Odd Halverson of the University of Oslo writing in the respected journal, *Parasitology Today*, so don't pooh-pooh-the theory too quickly. Global warming has some odd effects.

On top of all this, lots of folk up north still depend on the reindeer for supper, so dropping numbers could seriously affect their diet. When a problem arises in one species, it naturally expands to others.

Of course, we trust that Santa's reindeer will not go into the stew pot. Rudolph, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner, Blitzen, Cupid and Comet, with their special flying abilities will spend most of their year working out for the big

night. I referred to Rudolph as "he," but male reindeer doff their antlers by Christmas while females wait a tad longer. All pictures of famous reindeer depict them with full antlers, so I suppose they are actually exclusively female. The shedding, as with everything else on this planet, has to do with sex. The men of the Sami, an ethnic group living in northern Scandinavia, grind reindeer antlers to powder and consume it, maintaining it increases their virility. Perhaps this is how the term "horny" has developed? More research is definitely needed in this area.

Santa surely keeps a few young bulls aside each year for breeding purposes. Since he is already at the North Pole, experts say it is difficult to see how he can move to colder

climes to protect his herd. As there have never been reindeer observed at the North Pole, we can only assume they are being kept in a Very Secret Place and fed the select mix of tundra, corn and pistachios that gives them their flying ability. It's a good thing too, because there's not much to eat at the North Pole and especially no tundra. In Finland, studies show that reindeer grazing can both enhance and retard soil quality. As one study noted, "The most important of these mechanisms are the grazer-mediated impact on the decomposability of the dominant vegetation and fertilization by urine and feces."

As fascinating as this is, it's far too technical for us. More important are those burning questions which I know you've wondered about as you lie awake at night, such as "What kind of name is Donner, anyway?" and "So what is it, 'Donder' or 'Donner'?" These are good questions. In the famous poem *The Night Before Christmas*, (originally, called *A Visit from St. Nicholas*) two of the reindeer in the first 1832 publication were called Dunder and Blixem. Now, "donder" and "bliksem" mean thunder and lightning in Dutch, so this may indicate that Henry Livingston Jr., a poet of Dutch descent from Poughkeepsie, NY is the author of

the poem, as some contend. But most people think it was a fellow named Clement Clarke Moore. In a handwritten copy of the poem written near his death, he wrote the reindeer's names as "Donder and Blitzen," so the original names could just be a misprint.

Now fast-forward to 1949. Johnny Marks is penning Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, ready for Gene Autry to record it. It was Johnny who first named Donner as one of the reindeer. "Donner" is "thunder" and "blitzen" is lightning in German. So blame the 20th-century confusion on Johnny and Gene, and maybe the Germans.

Children's poet Mark Mondak wrote in *A Reindeer's Holiday*, that "Troubadour

I referred to Rudolph as "he," but male reindeer doff their antlers by Christmas while females wait a tad longer. All pictures of famous reindeer depict them with full antlers, so I suppose they are actually exclusively female.

Blitzen/Wrote some hits and Dasher helped with the chorus" and later in the same poem that "A r t f u l Donder/Sat to ponder/The paint that he was m i x i n' / O n Christmas Eve." Other reindeer have various skills, including the ability to use cell phones, so if Mondak can be

believed, there's some evidence these reindeer have considerable talents beyond flying. From the masses of reindeer that yearly pound across the tundra, they have risen to a select leisure class of reindeer who have time on their hands to develop skills other reindeer can only dream of..

But who is the mysterious man who looks after the reindeer? He's got a long history and has gone under many names: Klaasbuur, Burklaas, Rauklas, Bullerklaas, and Sunnercla, or more colourfully, Ash Man, Shaggy Goat, or Rider, Weihnachtsmann. Some of his manifestations connect him to his pagan past. This is a confusing mess of names and nicknames, so for clarity I'll stick to Ash Man. Of course, Ash Man cannot make and deliver all the toys to children single-handedly and he has a number of colourful assistants (in addition to the elves) to help him. Most of them are traditionally rather sinister. Pictures of the most famous of them, Knecht Ruprecht ("servant" or "farmer" Rupert) is

downright satanic. Knecht Ruprecht's job, according to some sources, is to travel with Ash Man and do the dirty job of sliding down chimneys. Sometimes he makes children perform tricks for Ash Man to see if they are truly good. If they're not, he could stuff them into his sack and take them back to the Black Forest, or just toss them into the river. Better watch out, kids. Knecht Ruprecht knows if you've been good or bad. I hope it's good, because Knecht Ruprecht doesn't seem to have much of a sense of humour.

Ash Man, to be fair, has an onerous job. Some experts say his red suit reflects the red-and-white dots of potent mind-altering psychedelic toadstools that the working folk in southern Europe liked to ingest to take their mind off their oppressive situation.

So as we move into the Christmas season, as you glide down the aisle of your Christmas shopping store, beware: Ash Man may also be wandering around the store stoned out of his brains on red polka-dot mushrooms, his jolly ho-ho-ho disguising all kinds of weird thoughts. Even more ominously, Knecht Ruprecht, complete with his horns and whip, could be standing in the shadows checking to see who has been naughty or nice. Be good. The river's cold this time of year.

If you do see them, engage them. Ask lots of questions. "Hey you guys," you might say, in the chummy kind of way you do to people wearing polka dot suits or sporting horns and whips, "let's talk about this. With your toys and upscale reindeer, are you part of the problem over over-consumption in the holiday season? Do you yearn for the gold 'ol days when you weren't so establishment? What exactly is the 'real' meaning of Christmas in our ethnically diverse society? Do those horns itch? How do you grow mushrooms at the North Pole? Considering the aerodynamics, how do those reindeer fly?"

I bet you could pass some quality hours with these guys. Really, you and the kids could do a lot worse things than hang out with Ash Man and Ruprecht on a snowy eve.

But enough. I lay my finger aside of my nose and as I whisk away on my Christmas errands, I wish a happy Christmas to all and to all a good night.

Peter R. Snell

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Christmas in Cuba

The true meaning of Christmas

To all outward appearances Christmas takes on the patina of a consumer crazed marketing frenzy. We feel compelled to search for the perfect gift for children who already own more things, by far, than the majority of children who share this planet.

Editorial

by Andrea Hillo

Peace is always beautiful.

Walt Whitman

For me, as the New Year approaches I can't help but be a little melancholy. It's the end of the year it's winter and it's natural to feel sad. But it also provides a time to reflect on the past, and that's what Christmas is all about, it's a rebirth of the spirit.

About 8 years ago, I worked for a company out of Toronto. Every Tuesday my responsibility was to drive to Toronto, hand in my work, finish up paper work and head home to the Highlands. More often than not, I would find myself driving home late at night, leaving the office anytime between 10pm and Midnight.

It was my routine to take the Peterborough route home because the highways were clear at that time of night, and most of all my cell phone worked almost all the way home.

I remember one particular night I left the city at about midnight. I had driven the same path for what seemed a million times and just like every trip was just happy to be going home.

I came off Highway 115 and pulled into my regular pit stop for a green tea and chocolate donut and without hesitation jumped back into my car and continued my way home.

Just outside of Apsley my car started to act up, I looked down and to my horror noticed I was on empty. Yikes! At that moment I was never so thankful for my cell phone, and for the fact I had taken that route home.

My 2am call woke up a friend in Apsley, he was soon on his way with just enough gas to get me to Apsley. He also arranged for the local gas station owner to come to the station and fill me up once I got that far. Excellent, I couldn't believe my good fortune, and better yet my good friends.

That was the longest half hour of my life. If I remember correctly I called, I mean woke up a few other friends as I waited, there was safety in a friendly voice and no one seemed to mind. Finally my hero with gas arrived, I got to Apsley and filled up at the gas station and was home in bed before the sun came up.

While on the phone with a friend the other day, I was reminded of this and the many good deeds that have come my way since living in small town Ontario. This particular story ended well - my lesson- I have never run out of gas again, but if I do, I hope it's in the Highlands.

I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Andrea

Thinking back to my own childhood, although I remember very few tangible gifts, I do have memories of the very best presents. They were not to be found under the Christmas tree or in my stocking neatly hung by the fireplace.

The very best present was our yearly Christmas Day train ride to my grandmother's house in Guelph where a spruce tree draped with liquid-filled lights that bubbled when they were heated up, filled the living room. We all sat around the huge dining room table, my aunts and uncles and cousins and we always had greasy goose and I always wished it were turkey. The meal ended with my grandmother's apple pie topped with vanilla ice cream and all was right with the world. After dinner, my cousins and I skated in the backyard.

Thinking, as I do each year at this time, about the meaning of Christmas, I recall other presents received during my lifetime that have no monetary value and yet have informed and shaped my life. From my mentor Francis Tolhurst, my Speech Arts teacher at the Royal Conservatory in Toronto I was given an early love of Shakespeare and an appreciation of poetry. From my mother, the oldest daughter of 8, who, with a grade eight education was needed at home following the death of her father, I was given a sense of responsibility and the knowledge that I was capable of achieving whatever I wanted to.

From my mentally challenged son I have been given an appreciation for how truly funny those of us not so afflicted are. From a dear friend, Ted Farrow I learned that a person who suffers a stroke is not a stroke victim but rather a stroke survivor. What is similar about these gifts is not the spending of money but the spending of a precious commodity, time: time to ponder where a source of need might lie, time spent sharing

passions, experiences, love and laughter.

This is my Christmas wish list:

- An opportunity to deliver some parcels to families in need
- A chance to send a larger than usual donation to a charity that I care deeply about
- Laughter and stories and the original "A Christmas Carol" on Christmas Eve with my children
- A moment when my eyes meet those of my life partner and I know that all is right with the world
- Warm greetings given and received especially by complete strangers
- A Christmas Day when I feel the embrace of a loving family and extend my heartfelt appreciation to all of them

I no longer remember most of the presents I found under our tree as a child. But I carry with me and treasure the time spent in relationship with others. This Christmas, I encourage you to stop for a moment amidst all the hustle and bustle and think of what gifts you can give that will be remembered long after you are gone. Chances are that they won't be found at Canadian Tire.

Wishing you and yours joy and wonder in this season of endless possibilities!

In faith, hope and love,

Cheryl Jack

*Merry Christmas
from all of us at The
Highlands Courier*



The last time the mill operated commercially was about 1972. There are still people living in the area who worked in the mill and a lot more who can remember when it turned logs into lumber, keeping Kinmount and area builders supplied with locally processed building materials.

Austin Sawmill Restoration

story and photos by Jerry Grozelle

Persistence is paying off for those who have worked so hard to make the Kinmount Heritage Park and the Austin Sawmill Restoration Project a reality.

The community-based group formed by the former Somerville Township - the Kinmount Committee for Planning and Economic Development - as well as a large number of volunteers and supporters, have been working for a dozen years on the dream of restoring the mill and creating a park setting around it. The park has already seen some major improvements and work on the mill has been stepped up with the recent receipt of a provincial grant that was initiated when Chris Hodgson was the local MPP.

Laurie Scott, the current MPP for Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Brock and a Kinmount native has been working hard to convince the provincial government to live up to the commitment made by the previous government. As a result, the project received a \$100,000 grant from the province. Add to that the \$50,000 reserve that Somerville had for the project before amalgamation with the

City of Kawartha Lakes and another \$100,000 that has been raised by the community, and the project has enough funding to proceed with some major renovations.

But the story takes an interesting turn that will make believers out of the skeptics who may have thought the money raised might better have been spent on other priorities. If everything goes according to the most recent plan, Devil's Gap Waterpower Inc. will become a partner in the project.

One of the partners of Devil's Gap happened to be driving through Kinmount on the way back to Port Hope from another project and he wondered why the dam wasn't being used to generate electricity. To abbreviate the story, Devil's Gap approached the City of Kawartha Lakes and the principals involved in Kinmount and a proposal was drafted to create a hydro-electric generating plant on the site. The generator, if the plan goes ahead, will be constructed under the floor level of the mill, with a viewing window on the north side to allow visitors to the site to see the turbine in

action. It won't be visible from outside the mill. The hydro-electric generator that is planned for the site is capable of generating 250 kilowatts of power. 'The capacity to generate power is contingent on the water flow,' said Ian Angus, one of the Devil's Gap partners. Angus pointed out that it takes an average of 1.5 to 2 kilowatts to energize a household, unless they all make dinner at the same time.

He noted that the generator will not create fluctuations in water levels. 'Nobody will notice,' he said. 'Water levels won't change.'

Angus said that during extended dry weather periods, the output may be considerably less. 'We have to design a turbine that we can crank back to use a very small quantity of water and still generate some electricity. We may only be able to generate 30 kilowatts or 50 kilowatts, whatever the water flow will permit. We'll use only the water that's available.'

If anything, the installation and operation of the generator will help to regulate the water flow, smoothing out some of the highs and lows. 'In that

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continued from Page 4

way, we will assist the MNR with the regulation of the water flow,' Angus said. The water flow through the turbine is a maximum of 11 cubic metres per second. 'By controlling the flow of water through our turbine, it will have a moderating effect on the changes in water levels. Our machine will be able to respond to the changes in water flow much quicker than they [MNR personnel] can drive down and adjust the stop logs in the dam. We're really happy about that. We didn't realize we could be helpful in that regard until we started talking to the MNR.'

Angus says the fact that his partner asked the question, 'why is no electricity being generated' at the Kinmount site and the resultant proposal to install a generator is a series of 'happy coincidences.' When they learned that plans were in place to restore the mill, he said the two points of view seemed to mesh together.

If (when) the deal is finalized, construction on the concrete foundation

for the generator can get started. Angus said the delivery time for the proposed turbine generator is four to five months. 'It will have to be made to specifications,' he said. Barring a holdup in

the negotiations, the generator could be installed and operational by next summer.

'We have agreement in principle, but you know what they say 'the devil's in the details,' Angus said. 'With regard to the City of Kawartha Lakes, signing on the dotted line has different ramifications for them than for you and I. I could go and scratch my signature on the documents, but they have various protocols and procedures to deal with.'

The installation of an electricity generator in the village doesn't mean the people of Kinmount will get a break in their hydro bills. The power generated will go directly into the grid. But in the case of a brown-out, the homes and businesses in the Kinmount area will be the last to experience power shortages.

The main benefit to the project itself is the fact that Devil's Gap Waterpower Inc. will be contributing financially to the restoration of the mill. In addition, the power company has been able to point out where savings can be realized that will reduce

expenditures. 'I'm very happy about that personally because if we can find a way to help them avoid spending a dollar, that's one less dollar that has to be fund-raised,' Angus said.

As this is written, nobody is willing to say the partnership with Devil's Gap is a done deal. But everyone is optimistic that when the final details are worked out, the papers will be signed.

'I'm really keen about the partnership with the power company,' Diane Austin said.

The companies that are doing the work on the project are local. The building is being raised by Pollard The Mover from Lindsay, construction work is being done by Dudman Construction, based just south of Kinmount and concrete work will be done by Mike Byrne of Fenelon Falls and the crane operator is a local person.

'I can't speak strongly enough about the good will and co-operation of the Ministry of Natural Resources,' Austin said. 'Gary Clements has bent

over backwards to accommodate with permits and knowledge.'

Austin credits amalgamation with the City of Kawartha Lakes for helping Kinmount develop as a commu-

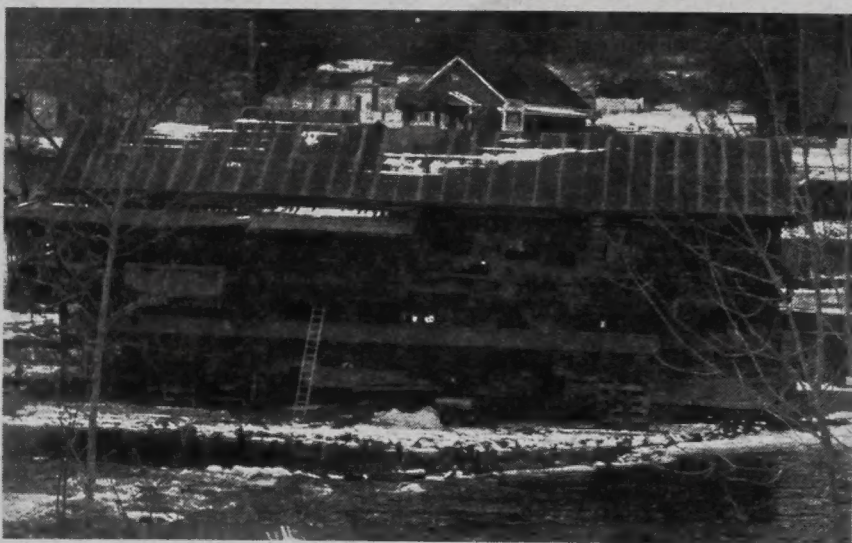
nity, not just with the Heritage Park, Austin Mill restoration project. 'They [CKL officials] have to be on board or we wouldn't be going anywhere,' Austin said. 'It's been a big part of the success story we have going here.'

Austin also acknowledges the financial support of Human Resources Canada (\$80,000) and the Shell Environmental Fund (\$8,500).

She also pointed out that a huge amount of volunteer hours have been expended by a large number of Kinmount area (and beyond) volunteers, without whom none of the goals would have been attainable.

The last time the mill operated commercially was about 1972. There are still people living in the area who worked in the mill and a lot more who can remember when it turned logs into lumber, keeping Kinmount and area builders supplied with locally processed building materials.

The goal is to have the mill restored and set up as a museum in time for the height of the tourist season in the summer of 2006.



☆ Out and About in Harcourt



Timber Tom and Luann Coghlan's Wedding was a very hot event in Harcourt on November 26th. The celebration was a great opportunity for old and new friends to get together and really have a good time. The couple donated all proceeds of their special day towards local charities. With such big hearts, it's no wonder there was such a feeling of warmth in the air. Thanks to an amazing couple, who we all wish the best of happiness that love can bring. Yeah that's me, Publisher Hillo in the bottom photo (left), joined by long time school friend Michelle (Prosser) who made a special long distance trip to attend the wedding, and Jamie Evans (right). Photos courtesy Wendy Thrasher

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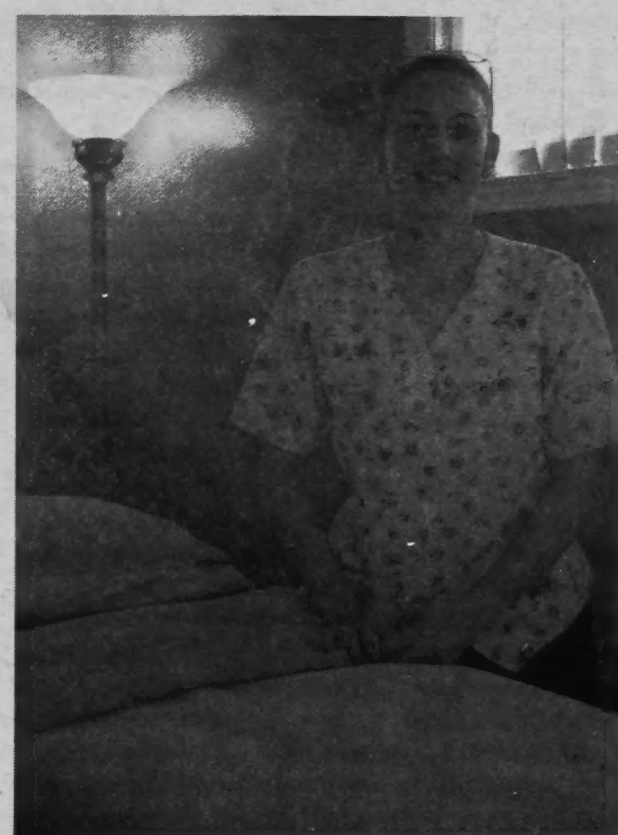
Jennifer Coulter owner of Beauty Escape Day Spa gave us a tour of her wonderful spa located on Baptiste Lake Road in Bancroft. She, along with her friendly team of professionals welcome you to enjoy a day of pampering and here we offer you a quick look at some of the great services the spa has to offer.



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Beauty Escape is owned and operated by Jennifer Coulter. Originally from the Bancroft area her family moved back in November 2001 purchasing the 8,000 sq ft house that her parents had built as their dream home in 1992. She has 5 years experience in the cosmetic field

and specialized in make-up applications for Brides and their Bridal parties. After some research felt that Bancroft needed an economical Day Spa that the local residents could use after a hard day at work. Cottagers and Tourists can definitely benefit as well by relaxing, while they are away from the fast paced city.

Beauty Escape opened its doors on May 20, 2003. It is situated on 2 acres overlooking beautiful Baptiste Lake.

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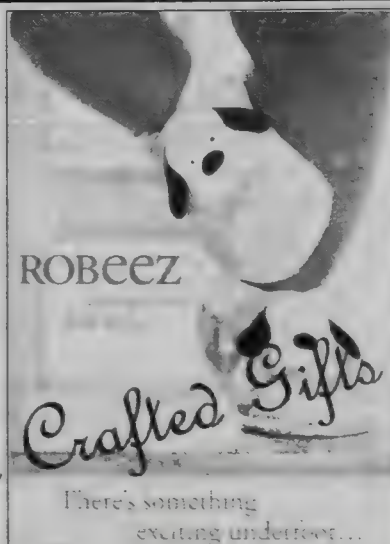
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Couriercarriers

by: Jan Simon



denominator. I worked in an associated industry for a company who supplied non-grocery items to the supermarket trade. It was known as rack jobbing. When Brock described the salesman that called in his store in Hamilton, I pegged his name right off the bat. What a small world it is. I believe they say there is only 2 degrees of separation between yourself and the rest of the world.

Cardiff Country Store was formerly known as the Cardiff Corner Store, but the Parks recently changed the name. This is reflected on their new sign on the 118 Highway.

The Country Store offers a full range of services to both locals and cottagers and even just passersby. They serve gas, diesel fuel and offer a BBQ Propane Exchange Service. They have movie rentals, some hardware, fishing tackle and worms and campfirewood to keep you warm at night. Each time you go to the store you will find more than you thought was there. They are a LCBO Agency Store, a full convenience store and even have an in-store bakery which offers bread, pies, pizza and buns. The pizza, by the way, is excellent. I had a slice on my last visit and was very impressed. You can purchase deli meats, cheese and a variety of produce on your way to the cottage. They also carry some giftware, perfect for those little items you like to take when invited to a friend's cottage. They even have a snackbar. The snackbar is frequented by groups of local folks. The Town workers are the first to arrive each morning followed by various groups of people who enjoy a social hour with their friends.

You can also buy sweatshirts, T-shirts, hats and winter gloves. Good stuff when going by on your snowmobile and you need replacement items.

The store employs 8-16 people based on the season and draws most of them from Cardiff and some from the surrounding area. There are about 300 homes in Cardiff with a population of about 500. The Parks try to accommodate the needs of these residents as well as other seasonal folks. I'd say they do a fine job of it.

They carry a rack of brochures in the snackbar area which give you great ideas on places to see while in the area.

Drop in and sample all that the Cardiff Country Store has to offer. You will be greeted by this very warm and friendly couple who take great pride in their store.

by Jan Simon

Dynamic Duos

Partners in business and life.

Brock and Brenda Park own and operate the Cardiff Country Store. Both Brenda and Brock were born and raised in the Hamilton area. They were both involved in the grocery trade in Hamilton. The Parks were married about 12 years ago and have been at the Cardiff location for the past 8 years.

In between Hamilton and Cardiff they gravitated to the Muskoka area where they spent their summers and then moved permanently

to own and operate a business there for 5 years.

Leaving Muskoka they purchased a home on Paudash Lake where they still reside. Here they have everything a couple could ask for. Their business and home on the water and each other. Brenda is a little shy and had to be convinced to have her picture taken. They are a friendly, warm couple who are a pleasure to talk to. In fact in discussing their background we discovered a common

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Unsung Heroes *in Animal Welfare*

In my job answering a daily barage of calls for the Highlands Animal Relief Team (H.A.R.T), I have become aware of some pretty special people in our midst.

Selflessly, they volunteer personal time, energy and financial resources to the betterment of animal welfare. They are indeed, unsung heroes in our community.

Dot Wellman is one of these folks. Over the past few years, she has repeatedly opened her heart and her home to provide loving care and training to some of our most unfortunate animal friends. Joyful it is to bring a kitten or puppy home but many do not stop to consider this new 'baby' represents a 15 year commitment. Enthusiasm fades and said animal is found abandoned, found wandering in the streets with a free to a good home tag around it's neck.

Thankfully people like Dot step forward to help pick up the pieces. Her charity has led to the successful rehoming of six dogs and cats in just the few months.

Completely blind from birth, a young adult dog was turned in to our agency. Never trained or even groomed this girl was turned into our

agency. Matted fur, untrimmed nails growing into the pads of her feet she was considered a poor candidate for adoption.

Dot willingly volunteered her a chance. After grooming and vetting, patient guidance and a loving touch, Dot's efforts were rewarded. Only three days later this little dog was already house broken and able to navigate past stationary objects in Dot's home. Dignity returned, and over the next few weeks she continued to blossom into a happy affectionate, well socialized pet. Eventually adopted to a loving, 'forever home' this was a very happy ending.

Thank you to Dot Wellman for the significant contribution you make to animal welfare in our Highlands.

by Linda Elsegood

Linda's call volume monthly is between 100-150 calls. She has recently been given a seat on the H.A.R.T. Board of Directors and felt compelled to celebrate the volunteerism in animal welfare in the Highlands. Linda invites you to send your candidate for Unsung Heroes in Animal Welfare. Please forward the information the The Highlands Courier, PO Box 88, Harcourt, Ontario. K0L 1X0. or call 705-448-1388.

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Update Gun control

by Jerry Grozelle

Bruce Montague's constitutional challenge to Bill C-68, also known as the Firearms Act, took an unexpected turn this fall when the Crown decided to use legislation enacted specifically to deal with profits from 'organized crime' to seize his family's home. The Dryden, Ontario area gunsmith refused to register his firearms and renew his possession licence in protest of what he and most Canadian firearms owners believe is unjust treatment of Canadian citizens who own guns. His intent is to challenge the legislation that, among other things, requires gun owners to register all of their firearms.

Montague and his family will be allowed to stay in their home. The judge allowed a stay in the proceedings [to seize the home] until after the constitutional challenge is done. So, for the time being, they're going to let us live in our house under specific rules and guidelines. It used to be that a man's home was his castle, but that's not the case any more in Canada.

'That law was supposedly to combat organized crime,' Montague said. 'I think they called it the Proceeds of Crime Bill, but if you read the fine print of that law, it does a whole lot more than take the homes and property away from organized criminals. It allows them to take it away from virtually anybody in this country. In effect, you've lost the right to own property.'

Montague said the law was enacted only a few years ago and already the government has made over \$100-million 'A lot of that money they gained from it was from people who were never charged with anything. I'm not talking about people who were charged and the charges were later dropped; these were people who were never charged in the first place,' he said. 'They can take people's property away without laying a single charge against them.'

He said that when most people are told their property rights have been eroded they either don't believe it or they believe it won't happen to them. 'And, for most people, it won't happen to them. As long as they are good little sheep and do as they're told, they won't have to worry about it,' he said. 'But if you stand your ground or try to make a point on principle, and they don't like it, they can make life miserable for you.'

Montague says he expects the Crown to go ahead



Bruce Montague spoke at the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association's resource centre earlier this year.

and try to take his home no matter the outcome of his constitutional challenge. He has been told the seizure of his home has nothing to do with his challenge. 'Yeah, and I was born yesterday,' he said, adding that he believes it is a tactic aimed at intimidating him and applying pressure in an attempt to gain the upper hand.

'At least we know about this tactic. It still hurts, but at least knowing what the tactics are helps an awful lot,' Montague said.

In a letter Montague sent out to supporters, which is posted on his website www.brucemontague.ca he says: 'This is a heavy personal blow to us, with decades of labour and savings lost to an act of malicious and arbitrary state power. Even though I understand their tactics and know what they're up to, it still bothers me immensely that people in our judicial system can do the things they do. Then they bear false witness against us to try to justify their actions,' he said.

A judicial pre-trial hearing is set for December 20. Montague said that hearing is not open to the public, just the judges and lawyers. 'I don't like things that go on behind closed doors, especially when they pertain to me,' he said.

Montague said when he was growing up, he used to get picked on by bullies. 'In a way, I'm glad I did because it has prepared me for what I'm going through now. This is exactly the same thing hap-

pening now. They may not be throwing sticks and stones at me now, they're doing far worse, but it's exactly the same tactics. They gang up. They don't like what's happening. They don't like me and they're going to try to destroy me in their own way. I learned how to deal with bullies when I was a kid. I learned it doesn't matter how much it hurts, you have to stand up to them. It doesn't matter if you get a black eye or a broken nose, you've got to stand up to them. You have to make sure they realize if they pick on you, they are going to have to pay a price. That's exactly what I'm doing here, standing my ground. I'll let the public judge who's right and who's wrong.'

Bruce Montague and his wife Donna will be speaking in Toronto and Kingston in January. They are in the process of raising money to help fund the constitutional challenge. They still have a long way to go in their quest to raise the \$300,000-plus that they expect it will cost to pay for the challenge. Bruce spoke in Haliburton this past spring at the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association's resource centre. Those who attended dug deep and added more than \$1,300 in support of the cause.

More information about Bruce Montague and his family's constitutional battle can be found on his website at: www.brucemontague.ca.

by jerry grozelle

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Two years ago I was traveling with a friend to Bracebridge. It was eight a.m. we had just passed a moose and were halfway between Carnarvon and Bracebridge on that desolate stretch of 118 where there aren't many houses. We had just seen a moose when my friend's van broke down. Neither of us had cell phones. Another van pulled over and a man offered to take me to civilization. I felt a little trepidation getting into this stranger's car but felt I had little choice. My friend gave me her CAA card as she planned on waiting with the van. The middle aged man was very friendly, almost too friendly. I wanted to get to Haliburton so I could pick up my own car. The man said he could bring me to Haliburton but that he had to stop at his cottage near Carnarvon first. Perhaps, he was just doing his good deed for the week, but he made me very uncomfortable and I knew immediately that I didn't want to go to his cottage with him. I have faith in my own intuition and something in my gut was telling me it wasn't right. Luckily I had some friends in Carnarvon who lived right off the highway. He dropped me off and I waved goodbye forever.

I remember the first time I met Jason Staples it was September 2004. A friend of mine, like me, rented out rooms to Fleming students to supplement her rent. I had heard about the laid back, gentle guy that was now sharing my friend's house. One night while having coffee with my friend he came home. He was taking the 14 week drawing and painting course. My first impression was of an intelligent, interesting guy. I liked him

The boy next door

At 36, Staples had already served a life sentence for 2nd degree murder.

by Erin Lynch

and thought to myself that if he didn't have a girlfriend he was exactly the kind of guy I would be interested in dating. He and my friend didn't last as roommates. There was never any big blow out just conflicts around phone and bathroom usage. He stayed a month and then found other accommodation with some female classmates. After that I passed him a couple of times and we said hello and once had a brief conversation at a party. By his peers he was thought of as a talented, nice guy. On Monday November 7, 2005 Jason Staples was arrested for kidnapping and sexually assaulting two women in Peterborough. Staples was recently married, owned a house and worked at a Nutrition Centre in Peterborough. The alleged assault happened at his place of employment. Afterwards he is to have driven the two victims ages 26 and 46 to his home. He was arrested that night.

My friend Gayle first told me of the 'rumour', she

had heard. Eager to know if I had heard anything, Gayle had taken the Textile program at Fleming at the same time Staples was a student. She had socialized with Staples and was haunted with the image of him walking around the college with her seven year-old daughter as she worked in the textile studio.

The information rocked me with shock and horror. I was tinged with disbelief as it hadn't been confirmed. By the next day it was and more information was divulged. At 36, Staples had already served a life sentence for 2nd degree murder. He served 16 years, starting when he was 18 for murdering his female roommate who refused his sexual advances. He knocked her to the ground and smashed her head on a ceramic floor until she was unconscious. He was denied parole a number of times before he was released. He got out on full parole in January 2004, only eight months before coming to Haliburton.

For the last month this story has occupied my thoughts and woken me up in the middle of the night. I have been trying to grapple with what has left me so anxious. Growing up in a small town and choosing to return to Haliburton as a home for me and my son I feel somewhat protected. As a single mother who regularly rents out a room, this nightmare has left me feeling vulnerable. Who is the bad guy? He's not always who you think he is. I don't often let my mind go back to the man who gave me a ride to Carnarvon. Why dwell on what could have happened.



Show and Sell

The Student Art Show and Sale at Sir Sandford Fleming College in Haliburton took place on December 10th. Students worked in the Blacksmithing, Painting and Drawing, Ceramics, Glass, Textiles studios, inviting the public to observe and purchase the art pieces. The annual event has become an exciting opportunity for both artists and art lovers to interact with each other.

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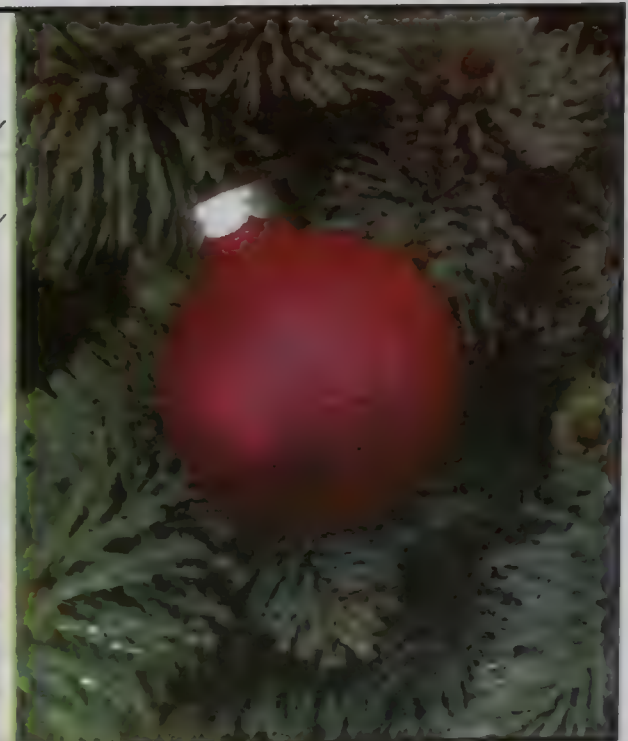
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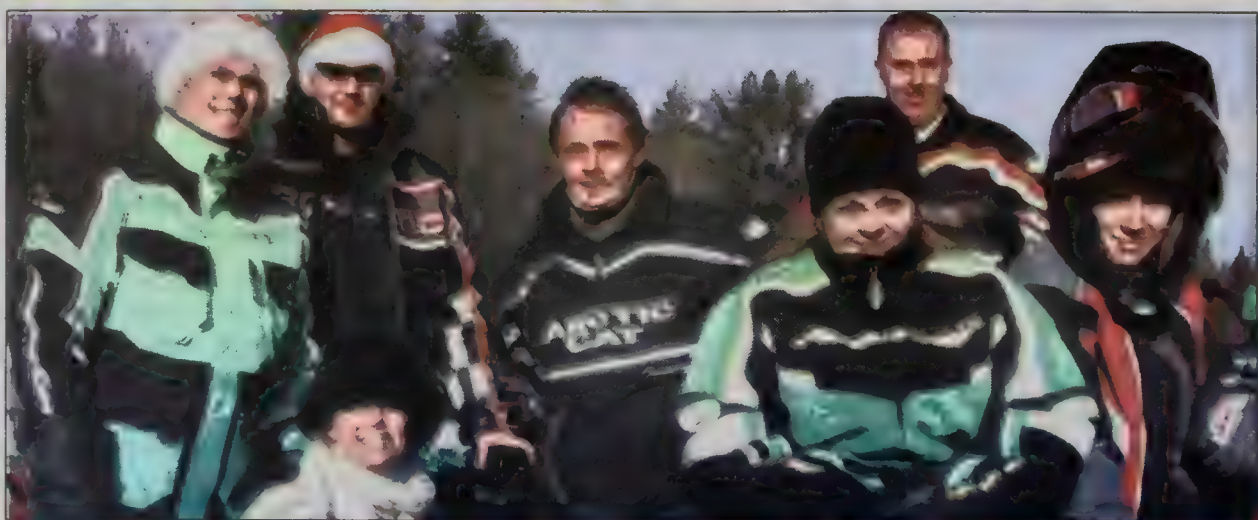
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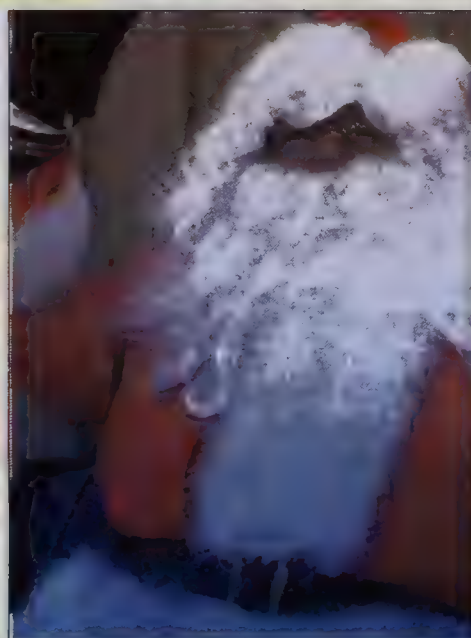


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The Scrawler would like to start this scrawl out with a big shout out to Norland's own Nick Cameron. The fifth-year running back has led the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks football team into the Vanier Cup finals. The OUA first-team all-star has already been named game MVP of two of the Hawks playoff games, and has them in the big dance against the Saskatchewan Huskies. The Scrawler will have a lengthy profile of Cameron for next month's Scrawl. The small-town kid has made it big, but has overcome several difficult obstacles along the way. Stay tuned.

Now to the less serious stuff.

Can anyone name a bigger idiot than Terrell Owens?? Didn't think so. \$49 million, a Super Bowl appearance, and a team that does nothing but pass just don't go as far as they used to, do they T.O.? Nice to see the Eagles take a stand and suspend his sorry butt. Let the prima donna rot on the sidelines, even after he crawled back and apologized.

The Scrawler must admit he was dead wrong when he predicted the Toronto Raptors would have a bad season. Horrendous would have been a better choice of words. One month in and 1 win do not inspire dreams of a ticker-tape parade boys. High-strung coach Sam Mitchell will have to be outfitted for a straitjacket if these slackers don't start at least competing for 48 minutes. Double-digit wins look like a pipe dream right now. Oh well, if you're going to be bad, you might as well be really bad, right??

Heavyweight champ Vitali Klitschko has retired. Lennox Lewis is already gone and Mike Tyson has officially been recognized as a tomato can. What a sorry division the heavyweights have become. The Scrawler has exactly 0 matches to his credit, but may be a top-ranked contender if

he takes up the sweet science as his next career.

Sidney Crosby is the real deal. His shootout goal versus the Habs was an absolute thing of beauty. As a Montreal fan, it hurt to see, but it is great to see skilled players come to the forefront once again and have the opportunity to showcase their skills. Crosby's team may be putrid, but he and Mario alone are worth the ticket price.

Sticking with shinny, isn't it nice to see Jaromir Jagr actually expending some effort again. He is on a torrid Gretzky-like scoring pace. Can he challenge the Great One's 92 goal season?? Um no, he's still Jagr, and doesn't possess a tenth of Gretzky's heart. He's selfish and plays only when it suits him, and that is reason

enough to also root against him.

The poor Chicago White Sox ended a drought of about 1000 years in winning the World Series title....and if you live outside Chicago and actually care then that makes 1 of you. What a contrast to the baseball fever of last post-season when the more storied Red Sox ended a similar drought. This year's playoffs seemed anti-climactic and Boring, and yes that capital B was intentional.

That about wraps it for this month lads and lasses. Next month's column will be a bit different, as we will be focusing on the aforementioned Nick Cameron and his exploits on the gridiron this year. The Vanier Cup will be history by then, so the piece will have a proper ending.



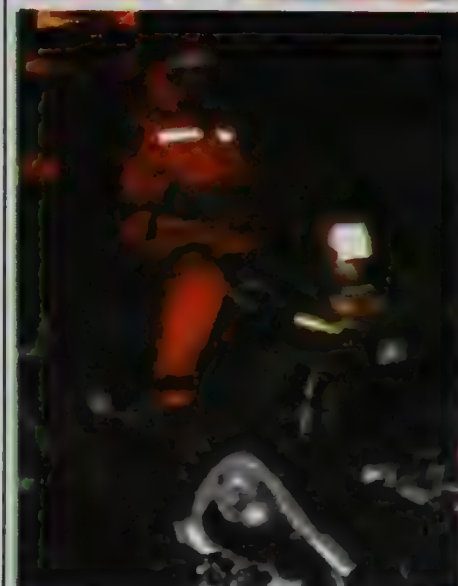
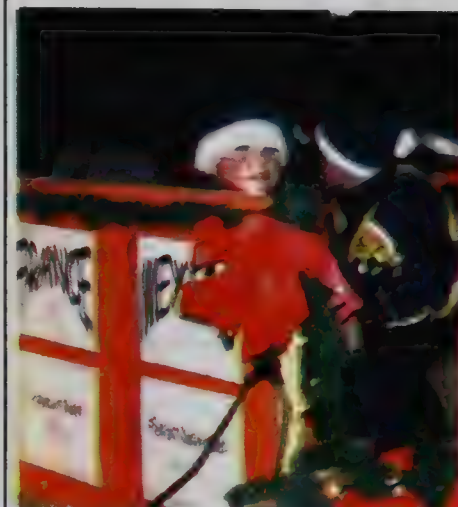
Illustration by Don Spencer

Suddenly Single Sibling Sports Scrawl

by lorne greer

Maynooth p.m. parade

Lights up the night



Photos by Tom Newman

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Just call him Mr. Jack's Lake

Gil Watt could conceivably be called 'Mr. Jack's Lake' because he has been in business on the lake since 1972, operating the marina called "The Anchorage" at the end of Jack's Lake Road, and in so doing he has met most of the people on the lake and has worked for or with pretty much them all.

Gil was born in Toronto in 1925, and his family moved to the Hyland Creek area, the end of the street car line. He grew up there, and worked in automobile sales and service until moving to the Apsley area after a friend had invited him to a cottage on Jack's Lake.

He purchased the Anchorage Marina from the Lean family and built the business up to the successful enterprise it is today.

He sold the marina to his daughter and son-in-law after five years but retained the trailer park. While running the marina he sold and serviced Polaris snowmobiles, 4 wheelers (ATV), Johnson and Evinrude motors and Pioneer Chainsaws. These dealerships have now passed to other franchise dealers in the area. When he began at the marina about 60% of the lake residents were from the U.S., but as older families retired that has now changed to about 10%. Most cottage owners come from the



Toronto-Hamilton area now.

The main business at the marina now is boat docking facilities, storage for off-season, and parking for cars. New roads to the formerly inaccessible lake shores have reduced the need to travel by boat to cottages. A store at the lakefront carries the usual necessities and week-end groceries, specialty items like T-shirts and souvenirs etc. That side of the

business has expanded and increased through the years.

Gil has seen the boat traffic range from canoes to outboards for fishing and fast launches for water ski enthusiasts (particularly in the 50's and 60's) to fancy bass boats that provide comfortable room for fishing and touring. In the past few years a lot of 'Sea-dos' have appeared as well as tubing.

Since retiring Gil has kept busy with local organisations and committees working to expand the community and village of Apsley. If there is someone you wish to contact on Jack's Lake, Gil is the person most likely to be able to put you in touch.

Happy retirement Gil!

by Marvel Henning

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Most of us who have the good fortune to live in the Highlands must wonder sometimes what life was like for the early pioneers. But to understand really tough living, we would have to travel back 300-400 years to the far north.

Actually most of the explorers were just passing through the north in the hopes of finding a passage to the east. Henry Hudson lost his life to a mutinous crew. Captain Thomas James found his way to the bottom of another bay. So we notice Hudson and James bays in northern Ontario. Following these two men were French explorers and fur traders, Radisson and Groseilliers. They were advance men who led the way to the mouth of the Moose River, paving the way for the Company of Gentlemen Adventurers Trading into Hudson Bay.

By 1673 a small fort was established just down stream from where the Moose River enters James Bay. The Swampy Cree began trading their furs with the newcomers. For the next three hundred years the Honorable Company, sometimes known irreverently for its initials, Here Before Christ, made handsome profits for its London, England investors.

Then in 1686 the fur trading company which developed into an empire faced the possibility of attack. The resulting incident was the first commando raid ever undertaken in Canada.

The English came to the Canadian interior by sea. The French made their way inland via the St. Lawrence River. The place that became known as Moose Factory had only been in operation for 13 years when the adventurer Radisson captured the French Fort Charles on the east of James Bay and renamed it Rupert's House, now in the English service.

This gave the governor of New France an excuse to wipe out the English presence on the two great bays. In 1686 he sent 107 men north to reclaim French possessions and wipe out the English fur trade. The party consisted of six officers, thirty colonial soldiers and seventy canoemen. Leader Pierre de Troyes was said to have no peer as an improviser and planner. His ragtag gang of canoe-men or les canadiens was a tough bunch. Two of his officers were brothers. One became a popular soldier of fortune later. He was Pierre le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville.

The party moved north in March, a tough time of the year for canoe and overland travel. Their route was up the Ottawa River to the Mattawa River and then up Lake Temiscaming. The White River led to the Abitibi River and Lake Abitibi. It was break up time in many places. The party fought ice, portages and rapids. They were continually repairing canoes and by the middle of June 1686

The Battle for James Bay

by Michael Barnes

had battled a forest fire and endured mosquitoes. D'Iberville reconnoitered the area around Moose Fort, the largest English presence at the bottom of the bay. The fort was on a large island in the middle of the Moose River. A forty metres-square log palisade surrounded the place and there were 3-cannon bastions at each corner.

Scouts reported that they could see a three story log building in the centre of the fort, defended by four cannon. The only way in was via a big gate in the front and a small sally port at the rear. The commando leader set men to making rough ladders and dispersed his fighters carefully, all without being observed by the English.

Some men waited by the main gate with a home made battering ram. Others located near the walls with the newly fashioned ladders. A small group was in reserve. D'Iberville timed his attack for dawn when he reasoned the unsuspecting occupants would mostly still be asleep.

The attack began as planned. In the manner of the time the leader was at the forefront of those storming the main gate. At the same time the ladder men swarmed over the log palisade. Within half an hour the English flag was hauled down without incident. There was an old ship moored in the river and the prisoners from the fort were imprisoned on the hulk.

The French commandoes did not stick around to savour their victory.

The party, less those left to guard the prisoners, moved on to Rupert's House to reclaim the former French fort. They won again but this time only after a fierce struggle. They did capture an armed

ship and used it to sail west to attack another target.

This time the adventurers were up against Fort Albany. Wisely they used the ship's cannon to subdue the fort's defenders. Within fifteen days from the time he first reached the Moose River, D'Iberville had secured all three of his objectives and burned those buildings belonging to the English.

Seven months after setting out, the party returned to Montreal to a hero's welcome. Despite the epic journey, having overcome bad weather, rough terrain and little food, the commandoes had only lost three men.

For all his bravery and initiative, De Troyes never repeated his success on James Bay. In 1867 he was placed in charge of Fort Niagara. We may see the site of the outpost not far from present day Niagara-on-the Lake.

Tragically the intrepid adventurer lost ninety percent of his men, including his own life. Had he asked assistance from the Indian people in the vicinity, the deaths from scurvy could have been avoided.

De Troyes' superiors were pleased with his exploits. His actions resulted in Hudson's Bay Company profits being slowed down in growth for 27 years. The forts on James Bay seesawed back and forth between the English and the French for several years.

At one point D'Iberville actually returned to the Moose River to do battle with the English foes again. Nasty rumour had it that the soldier of fortune was glad to be fighting in the north country because he had a paternity suit hanging over his head back home.

Finally in 1713 by the Treaty of Utrecht the English forts were returned to their rightful owners. The Battle for James Bay was over.

Not long ago excavation work at the site of Fort Albany uncovered several of the cannon and musket balls used in the De Troyes led battle. In the late sixties the author took part in digs aimed at finding the location of Moose Fort without success.

Today visitors take the train on the Ontario Northland Railway during summer months and visit the places where the battle for James Bay took place. They find then that the native Cree people have taken charge of their own destiny and the old Hudson's Bay Company is no more.

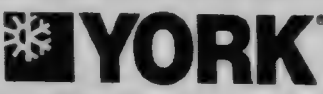
by Michael Barnes

Michael Barnes lived at Moose Factory and has a book which might interest those taking the train to Moosonee. Ride the Polar Bear Express is available via General Store Publishing House. Contact the author at michaelbarnes53@hotmail.com



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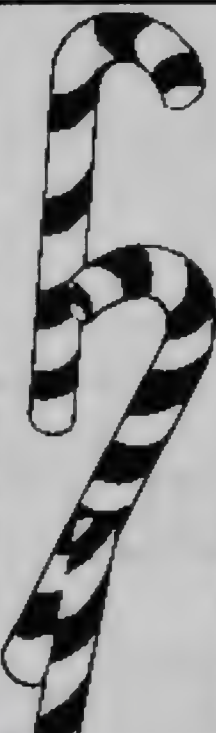
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Crossing the line

By Erin Lynch

According to Statistics Canada approximately 321,000 people used cocaine last year. The expensive addictive drug is not only confined to cities like Toronto. Cocaine is in Haliburton. Our neighbours, relatives and children may be exposed to the drug on a regular basis.

"Generally speaking cocaine use is on the rise in Haliburton. Historically, if people needed cocaine they had to go outside the community. It's readily available in the county today," says Donna Rogers, Executive Director of FourCast Addiction Services providing out patient drug counseling for Haliburton, Peterborough, Northumberland County and the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Tom, not his real name, graduated from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School last spring. He says cocaine is used among male and female high school students.

"People will steal things or commit break and enters to have money for the drug," says Tom. One gram of cocaine costs \$80 to \$100.

Rogers says that based on information from clients, the number of youth doing cocaine in the high school has increased. She stresses that alcohol is still the number one drug among teenagers.

"Kids talk about cocaine as a party drug," says Rogers.

Mark McMaster, community services officer with the O.P.P. says that some Haliburton residents have been charged with cocaine possession, but at the present time no one in the high school has. "Just because no one has been charged doesn't mean it isn't there," says McMaster.



went longer than a month before going on a drug binge. He dropped out of college. He began doing coke on a regular basis in Toronto. His girlfriend at the time originally from Haliburton, began prostituting herself to supplement her own drug habit. They broke up. He was living in squalor, spending all his money on drugs. Ben decided to move out west to make a change. However, addictions do travel. Cocaine was more prevalent and accessible in Whistler than he had experienced in Toronto. Drug dealers would drop off packages while he was working. He would go to a bathroom or a backroom and do a few lines and go back to work. In one year he spent \$72,000 (an inheritance) on cocaine. After five years out west, desperately needing to clean up his act, he moved to Haliburton. But again the drug demons followed. Soon enough he found access to cocaine in Haliburton. He was a functioning drug addict. He went to work, but he was doing lines in the bathroom.

"It made me someone else. It made me more social and friendly," says Ben.

Ben says that for him cocaine counteracted the alcohol he consumed in copious amounts. His life was filled with lies and deceptions. Those closest to him didn't realize he was teetering on suicide.

One night, a year and half ago, he was contemplating driving his car into a telephone pole. Suddenly he says he had a celestial experience where he feels God spoke to him urging him to make a permanent change and finally face his demons. Ben checked himself into rehab for three weeks.

Ben is not cured. He fights those urges day to day. He admits that today if a line of cocaine was in front of him he couldn't say no. So instead he chooses not to put himself in those situations.

A list of regrets a page long Ben says, "I'm not the person I would have been."

"No one knew the real me. Being myself is the best. I have something to offer," says Ben.

Rogers says that health prevention towards drug awareness needs to begin earlier because youth are exposed to drugs at a younger age than 15 years ago. With more resources young people can make better choices that for some can have life-long impacts.

the real deal:

At 32, Ben, not his real name, has spent more than half of his life high or stoned. He began drinking at 12, smoking pot regularly at 14 and tried cocaine at 17. For him it was just another stepping stone on a path of slippery rocks. He grew up in Mississauga but has a family connection to Haliburton. At a young age he never

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All of you who love gardening will agree that it is so very exciting when harvesting time comes!

Well this year, instead of a warm feeling of satisfaction, I went through hellish frustration. The reason? Everything was late! The spring was late. The vegetables were late and, as I was watching the calendar and seeing the days fly away, I was torn between happy anticipation (my family would soon be coming) and a darkest of the panics: indeed, my granddaughter is a tomato-lover but my tomatoes were not ripening. A true disaster! What was I going to offer the sweet child? But then it happened quietly. It almost happened overnight: One morning, as I went by my vegetable garden, a yellow flash caught my eyes: a tomato! An adorable little yellow tomato was there. I could not believe my eyes. I must have grabbed, by mistake, this plant instead of the red cherry tomatoes one. Yet, mistake or not, here was the result. A miracle!

Thus, when my granddaughter arrived, I proudly laid in front of her a basket filled with little yellow marbles: 'For you, dear child'. 'As always, granny was thinking of you. Enjoy, my darling' But the little darling turned away and scoffed: 'I don't like them!'

'What do you mean? You like tomatoes?'

'Yes, but these are not red.'

'Indeed, they are yellow. That's a special kind of tomato. And they are sweet. Much sweeter than the red ones.'

Well, what to say? There was no way to make the sweet child swallow a single yellow tomato. Be they sweeter or not than the red ones, she would simply not touch them. Thus, the yellow tomatoes were gathering, by the bushel. When my family left, for weeks and weeks, I was munching on sweet little yellow tomatoes and as I was munching on them I was pondering the bizarreness of our (human) palate. What kind of influence has, for instance, the colour on this part of our mouth? Some colour impact there must be. Just think of this: a good friend of mine doesn't like rice. My guess is that she doesn't like it because it is white. Indeed, I saw her swallow quantities of rice. Of course, it was not white. It had that Soya sauce on it. It was in a Chinese restaurant and my dear friend obviously enjoyed the meal. She enjoyed that rice, because it was brown and not white.

What's wrong with yellow tomatoes?

Well, this good friend of mine was born and raised in Madagascar, which is, as we all know, one of the biggest rice producers in the world.

Talking about different cultures - I have Chinese friends who find dogs quite to their taste. In Africa, I discovered that Massai's diet is basically cow blood, occasionally mixed with milk (by the way, the Massais have wonderfully healthy teeth.) While in Africa, I was introduced to eating grasshoppers, crocodiles, snakes and monkeys, and here is a story which one of our physicians told me.

He started to work in Congo, before the independence, sometime in the mid-fifties. He was a bachelor at that time, which was not to the local king's liking. So he decided to give him one of his daughters in marriage. There was no way to refuse such an honour and thus, one day, Pierre (physician's name) came to pay a visit to his future father-in-law and to discuss the wedding ceremony. The talking went on and on and, while sipping banana beer and eating all kinds of goodies which were generously offered, Pierre suddenly noticed that the little white rings, which he found particularly tasty, were moving. He was eating worms.

But let's talk about Europe. A friend of mine told me, that during his university studies in Brussels, cats were frequently part of his menu. He and his roommate were poor and could not afford to buy meat. At night, they would catch ducks and cats in the local park. Ducks were cooked in beer and, if I remember, cats in peanut butter and laurel leaves. Both were quite tasty, said my friend.

Well, it's true, that with different cultures go dif-

ferent tastes and we all know why those French guys are called 'frogs', don't we? A friend of mine, who is Austria-born, told me that it took her two years to realize that Canadians didn't appreciate garlic (which she was using profusely in her cooking.)

Myself, I went through some horrifying experiences, too. When a new physician arrived from Hungary, my husband asked me to prepare something very good and very special to honour his colleague. We lived in Morocco, at that time, and not far from the Mediterranean Sea, so my paella contained all the seafood you could have dreamed of. Horror! The physician's wife would not touch the seafood.

Some two years ago, I had here in Canada, two visitors from Germany. Not knowing their food preferences, I decided on something neutral: chicken. Well, it turned out that chicken was the only thing in this world they would never eat!

One more example, this one from my own family. My Belgian father-in-law, during the First World War, was in the army and involved with horses. He kept saying that he could never eat horse, and - he liked to repeat it - if somebody were to give him horsemeat, he would recognize it immediately. Yet, for some twenty years, he ate horsemeat. Why? Here is the story. With the age, his teeth were giving him more and more trouble and his favourite beefsteak was getting more and more difficult to chew. And he was complaining. Yet, one day, he found his beefsteak wonderfully tender. He lavished praise on his wife. She should always choose a good tender cut and not a tough one, he said. During her following shopping session, my mother-in-law realized that she had inadvertently picked up, from the shelf, horsemeat instead of beef. So, after a little bit of hesitation, she thought: "What if I do it again? After all, he seems to like it."

Well, from that day on, there were no more complaints about the tough steaks and my father-in-law was happy.

Myself, I am an omnivore. When I am in Toronto, I enjoy dining out, in China town, with my Vietnamese (also omnivore) friends. We eat everything, except table legs.

by Dagmar Gontard-Zelinkova

There was no way to make the sweet child swallow a single yellow tomato. Be they sweeter or not than the red ones, she would simply not touch them. Thus, the yellow tomatoes were gathering, by the bushel. When my family left, for weeks and weeks, I was munching on sweet little yellow tomatoes and as I was munching on them I was pondering the bizarreness of our (human) palate. What kind of influence has, for instance, the colour on this part of our mouth?

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To harvest or not to harvest. A tree that contains a chemical used in the fight against cancer is at the centre of a building controversy.

It centres around discussions on how to handle our resources of ground hemlock, also known as the Canadian yew. The bark and needles from the low-growing tree contains paclitaxel (and related taxines), a chemical that has proven effective in the battle against several diseases, particularly cancer. Natives have used the ground hemlock for medical purposes for generations, but it's a relative newcomer for the rest of us.

Ground hemlock has been harvested in PEI, and efforts are being made to develop sustainable growth in Eastern Canada, Quebec and Ontario. It's not easy. It's a slow-grower (in some cases, up to 200 to 300 years) and it's hard to grow from seed. The bark and the needle are hard to harvest without killing the tree.

Traditionally, ground hemlock has been a source of food for deer and other wildlife. Because it's a scrubby tree, it's never been valued for its timber. But now that strong human need has been established, some ethically difficult questions have arisen.

First off, Canadian forestry officials are not at all sure it's possible to harvest the tree sustainably. If it's not sustainable, the environmental damage created by harvesting would be only a short fix in the search for paclitaxel - and a big profit for pharmacy companies.

Environmentalists are afraid of the growing competition for the drug, which could sweep responsible growing and harvesting practices aside. For example, Roland R. Franke, co-chief executive officer of Natural Pharmaceuticals Inc., has been quoted as saying, "At the end of the day, this business will be a race for scale and quality at the lowest cost."

On the other hand, if lives can be saved, it seems sensible to start looking for ways to both harvest the tree and to find sustainable ways of growing it.

To get a handle on this issue, bear with me while I throw out some numbers. About 400 kg of Taxol, Bristol-Myers's patented name for the chemical, is used per year in North America and Europe and 800 to 1,000 kg worldwide. In 2001, paclitaxel became the biggest-selling cancer drug in the world. Demand is growing about 20 per cent per year.

It takes about 30,000 kg of ground hemlock to produce 1 kg of paclitaxel. That means that to supply 400 kg (North America/Europe) it would require 12,000,000 kg of ground hemlock. To administer a single cancer treatment, 2.5 to 3 grams of paclitaxel is needed, or about 7.5 average-sized trees.

In Atlantic Canada, harvest levels of wild ground hemlock are about 1.6 million kg and pro-

GROUND HEMLOCK

To harvest or not to harvest?

Miracle drug or environmental disaster?

by Peter R. Snell

jections have been made of two to three million kg per year, which results in about 100 kg of taxanes. Natural Resources Canada suggests that only .6 (that's point six) million kg can be harvested if the crop is to remain sustainable.

The bottom line is that the crop cannot be sustained unless some method of domesticating it is developed, along with a less destructive way of harvesting it. Some research on development is being done, especially in the Atlantic Provinces. Still, the demand for wild ground hemlock continues, and it's anybody's guess as to whether demand for short-term profits will outpace efforts to cultivate domestic crops. Cropping in a nursery (as opposed to harvesting) is expensive - about \$2 per plant as opposed to about 80 cents for harvesting a wild plant. Whether the market will ignore nursery research while wild ground hemlock is available or will be forced to grow domestic crops is open to question.

On top of all this, ground hemlock rustlers are cutting into the profits of landowners. People out for a quick buck are stealing the plant from landowners. When legitimate cutters arrive, the crop is gone. Depending upon who you listen to, the entire crop in PEI is worth \$3 to \$6 million to harvesters and the companies that employ them. However, whether you're a rustler, a landowner or a legitimate harvester, there's not enough ground hemlock to go around. If you're a rustler,

chances are you won't be taking much care to prune a tree. Even when pruned carefully and properly, trees cannot be pruned again for three or four years if they are to survive.

The PEI government is developing regulations in an attempt to control harvesting, and other provinces may have to follow suit. The regulations include mandatory training on how to harvest.

In 2003, worldwide sales in taxane products amounted to \$4.2 billion. This is not pocket change, and the rush to keep the money flowing may override environmental concerns.

While harvesting ground hemlock in other countries such as China has slowed sales in Canada, the federal government suggests that dwindling sources worldwide may help the Canadian industry. "Help" may be a misleading word, as greedy harvesters have already put the industry in jeopardy.

In Ontario, one commentator remarked on the "gold rush" mentality which is taking over. An Ontario forest worker said some growers are ripping up the whole plant in an effort to make big money fast. Northern Ontario has a good supply of ground hemlock, and there's a belt of it that runs from North Bay into southern Ontario. You could have a fine growth of it in your own back yard, but check carefully - the plant looks very like a juniper tree.

There are responsible companies out there. For example, in Ontario, Chatham Biotech Ltd. has pickers trim about 10 inches from a hemlock tip, which will leave the plant ready for harvesting in three or four years. Recently, other companies have been asking harvesters to trim up to 25 inches, which would likely kill the plant, or at the very least eliminate the possibility of harvests for many years to come. Without provincial legislation, there is little legal recourse for dealing with improper harvesting, including over-harvesting. One innovative pair of farmers near Nairn Centre in northern Ontario have set up seminars to teach people how to harvest properly.

Chatham Biotech Ltd. send their produce to PEI (where it is most developed), but they are hoping to set up a plant north of Huntsville.

Some native communities have taken up the challenge and are developing ways of harvesting responsibly. For example Aboriginal Biologic Co-Ventures Inc. is working with native communities that have come together to manage their crops sustainably.

For the time being, it's a wait and watch situation. One thing is clear: if strong governmental regulations are not put in place, the competitive rush, whether from greedy corporations or get-rich quick individuals is going to kill a valuable resource.

by Peter R. Snell

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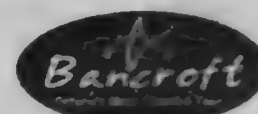
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There's a story going around that after Pope John Paul II died he showed up at the Pearly Gates expecting to be wafted in with a fanfare. Instead, he found a very nervous St. Peter who said he would have to check with the Boss before opening the gates to him.

"Why???" exclaimed the former Pope, "didn't I lead a largely blameless life and do many good works?"

"God is very unhappy about your handling of requests for women to take a larger part in the activities of the church", St. Peter said.

"I don't understand. I just continued a long standing tradition."

"That tradition made some sense when the world was primitive. Men and women had definite and important roles to play in the hunter-gatherer society; otherwise, human society could not have survived. But when society advanced so that people could have more freedom in their careers, women were able to get a proper education and have a greater part to play in how the world is run. The Roman Catholic Church simply did not move with the times."

"But that's the way the Church has always operated!", said the flustered former Pope. "We've always held onto tradition until forced to change. So I don't understand why God should be so upset when I barred women from taking a larger part in the church. Is He very upset over this?"

St. Peter said, "She's furious."

Let's see now; we've got a Prime Minister, a Cabinet, a Parliament, a Senate and a bureaucracy all involved in setting the rules on how this country is run. Now I hear the Pope may want a hand in all this.

The bishops from around the world have met in Rome to discuss a number of issues including what action to advise the Pope to take about RC politicians who favour laws that flout RC doctrine.

Of course the main concern is Canada's legalization of same-sex unions. RC doctrine says that homosexuality is immoral. That's fine - they can say what they like. I've come to the conclusion they are probably wrong, but they've been wrong before.

Who's running the show?

by Peter Charters

Four hundred years ago the Roman Catholic church gave Galileo a life sentence of house arrest because he suggested that the earth was not the centre of the universe.

One hundred and fifty years ago they objected to Darwin's "Origin of Species" because it said that present life forms were not created in two or three days; it actually took a bit longer - about four thousand million years and did so in a logical progression of many steps.

Since those times they have been forced by overwhelming evidence to agree that Galileo and Darwin were actually right. I don't know what their reaction will be to the next big pronouncement - that the universe was never created; it has been here forever and will last forever.

Wait a minute! Didn't the universe start with a Big Bang about 15 billion years ago? Actually, according to many scientists, that may have just been the Big Bounce, when the universe went from its previous phase to its current phase.

There is increasing evidence that homosexuality is genetic. If so, it would be as silly to say that it is immoral as it would be to say that red hair or blue eyes are immoral.

One of the fascinations of my life has been to observe a gradual increase in the level of maturity of people's thinking. For instance, there are now a large number of us who believe the difference between white people and black people is about as significant as the difference between blue cars and green cars.

It is to be hoped that the head of a large religious sect shares in that increase in maturity. I have no objection to the Pope pronouncing on the sexual actions engaged in by homosexuals but he has no more right to threaten our duly elected leaders for making informed decisions than I do. There is no difference between me trying to force MPs to vote my way by pointing a gun at them and a religious leader trying to force them by threats of excommunication or whatever.

It is certainly not a democracy when someone can influence its operation by threats of any kind. And the law does not force any action on the churches. Church leaders are free to turn away couples who want to marry - for any reason, valid or not.

The Pope certainly has the right to run his church by his rules, even if it means running it into the ground. And he certainly has the right to tell individuals who subscribe to his brand of religion how to conduct themselves in their personal life. If he wants to tell RC homosexuals not to engage in homosexual acts, he can try.

His church has been telling its members not to use artificial means to prevent conception but it hasn't affected the birth rate. Studies have shown that falling birth rates are strongly linked to increasing economic prosperity and nothing else. It mattered not whether a country was mainly Catholic or mainly Protestant; the birth rate in each was the same and fell at the same rate as personal wealth increased.

Pierre Trudeau said that government should stay out of the bedrooms of the nation. But not the Pope; that's exactly where he and his predecessors have been for centuries, telling people what to do and how to do it. And that's where he should stay; just keep him out of parliament.

by Peter Charters



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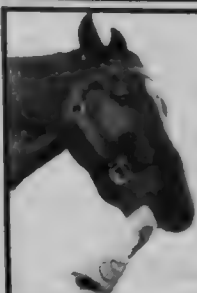
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Lady bug, lady bug fly away home

by Jan Simon

And where is home you ask? Malivoire Wine Company of Beamsville, of course. The Ladybug was chosen as the symbol for Malivoire Wines because it represents balance. "Hippodamia convergens" is the specie of ladybug which naturally occurs in the vineyard. It is both desirable and beneficial to the vineyard. All the drain plates in the floors of the winery have the ladybug symbol cutout in them. Quite unique.

Martin Malivoire and his partner Moire Saganski purchased the first vineyard (The Moire Vineyard) in 1995. The vineyard is located in the area known as the Beamsville Bench, part of the Niagara Peninsula. This unique setting most closely creates the climactic conditions of the vineyards of Alsace and Burgundy. The airflow, soil conditions and drainage combine to create the uniqueness of Malivoire Wines. They have chosen cool climate varieties of vines to compliment the area and ensure a good crop. The second vineyard, added in 1997, is located at the winery itself.

That third vineyard is at Jordan. All the vineyards are considered Estate production, which means the all planting, pruning, harvesting and other viticulture practices are under Malivoire control. All in all the vineyards total 50 acres.

Our tour began with a wine tasting of their signature wine, Ladybug Rosé. We gathered in a new wine cask storage building. This innovation is but one of the many inventions of owner Martin Malivoire. This storage facility holds approximately 300 barrels. It is basically a temperature controlled quanset building. The floors are heated which will allow for climate control within the building. Eventually it is thought that the storage facility will be covered over with earth and an ornamental vineyard placed on top to further fit into the landscape.

Martin Malivoire takes very seriously his stewardship of these lands. He is committed to an organic and gravity fed winery. Built on the side of a hill, this concept fits well with it's surrounding landscape. Every aspect of the winemaking process has been carefully thought out. Most of the equipment has been designed by Martin himself with the basic premise "Gentle to the wines and to the earth". Tractor usage is kept to a minimum and composting at the base of each "finger vine structure", keeps the use of chemicals to a

minimum.

It was amazing to see roses still in bud and in bloom here when our own have long since finished their season. The tour took place on November 12th and 13th. The temperature tolerance level for the growing grapes is about -25C. Each shoot will have two clusters on it. Harvest must be completed before the temperatures go too low. Last winter's crop sustained about 20% damage. Everything is done NOT to stress the vines.

The process starts at the top of the Winery: the crushing of the grapes. Here the shaker table culls the bugs and debris. This byproduct is then composted and returned to the soil to enhance it. Through a series of shutes the crushed grapes are sent to the pressing level. Here there are a variety of both steel and oak barrels. The oak are used in the production of red wines. At this level we had the second tasting. It was a Pinot Gris. This wine is cold pressed. It has a fragrant and fruity taste due to the soil conditions by the lake where the grapes are grown.

We were also introduced to a bread made from flour which has been ground from grape skins and then blended with other ingredients. It was lovely. It is also very healthy and helps control blood sugar levels.

Next we followed the hillside down to the bottling level. Here we met Martin Malivoire. Charming, Innovative and Charismatic are words that would best describe this vintner. He is so very personable and outgoing and you are immediately aware of how much he loves his work. For this occasion, Chef John Wood of 'The Grill at the Epicurian' at Niagara-on-the-Lake was invited to prepare H'or Deuvres to show how versatile the wines of Malivoire are. We were treated to Crab Cakes with Avocado Purée and Belle Tarts with Basil Purée. Both were exquisite and were the perfect accompaniment for the red and white wines which we sampled.

The next to last stop on the tour was the "tasting room" where one can taste to your hearts content any type of wine they produce. Their staff was extremely helpful in offering suggestions on wines and giving their history.

The last stop was, of course, the retail outlet. We came away with a good cross section of Malivoire Wines to celebrate the upcoming Holiday Season, including a delightful white ice wine.

For more information: log onto their website at www.malivoire.com It was certainly worth the trip to Beamsville.

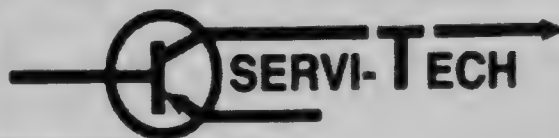


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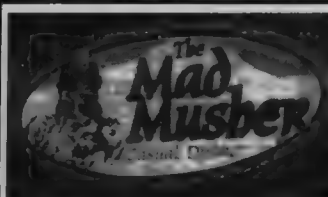
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FEATURE

What's Cooking

with Mrs T and her Guests

Christmas Stars

A festive sandwich style cookie. Excellent for Christmas or New years' celebrations. Original recipe yield: 2 dozen.

INGREDIENTS:

3/4 cup butter, softened
1 cup white sugar
2 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
6 tablespoons strawberry jam
1/4 cup green decorator sugar (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Gradually add eggs and vanilla. Mix well. Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt. Stir flour mixture into the butter mixture until well blended. Refrigerate dough for three hours.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease several cookie sheets.

On a floured surface, roll out 1/2 of the dough at a time to 1/8 inch thickness. Cut dough into star shapes using a 3 to 4 inch star cookie cutter. Using a 1 to 2 inch star cookie cutter, cut a star into the center of half of the big stars. Sprinkle coloured sugar on the cookies with the center cut out if desired. Put onto prepared cookie sheets about 1 inch apart, and bake for 6 to 8 minutes.

After cookies cool completely, spread 1 teaspoon of preserves in the center of each cookie that does not have a star cut out in the middle. Place a cookie with a cut-out on top of the layer of preserves. Pack cookies in a covered tin to preserve freshness.



Chardonnay Belle Tarts

8 oz. tart pastry (see instructions below)
200g. Belle Cheese at room temperature (goat cheese)

1 small onion, sliced and caramelized
1/2 pint teardrop tomatoes, thinly sliced
1 tbsp. basil puree (recipe follows)

Roll and bake four small tarts from pastry dough. Cool spread the Belle cheese carefully across the tart bottoms top with caramelized onions and tomato slices Just before serving, drizzle on a small amount of basil puree the tarts can be warmed in a hot oven for five minutes or served at room temperature

Tart Pastry

1 lb. all purpose flour
1 tsp salt
1/2 lb. butter, cold and diced
2 whole eggs
2 tbsp cold water

Combine the flour and salt in a food processor bowl for 10 seconds add the butter and process to a fine crumb add the eggs and water while the machine is going and process to a uniform texture wrap and refrigerate for 30 minutes roll to 1/8" thick and transfer to a tart shell (2 oz. for small shell, 8 oz. for large shells) cool for one hour in the freezer blind bake for 15 minutes at 350 F then remove weights and continue to bake until golden brown, approx. 8 minutes.

Basil Puree

1 bunch basil, leaves only, washed
pure olive oil
salt

Have an ice bath ready. Plung the basil into the boiling water for four seconds transfer immediately to ice water until cool, then remove and squeeze

dry chop the basil and puree on high in a blender with just enough oil to get the mixture turning in the blender season with salt and store in the fridge for up to a week.

Makes four tarts

By Chef John Pekka Woods, The Epicurean Restaurant & Bistro, Niagara on the Lake, ON

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Horoscopes

in the stars

FEATURE

Leo

Yep, you have an admirer who thinks that Jack Frost nipping at your nose is the cutest thing they've ever seen. Where it goes from there is up to you -- but it's hard to imagine a better start to the last month of the year. On the 11th, you'll meet someone who could be important to you later, and on the 16th your intuition will be right on. The 17th and 18th will feel like a party, but get ready to ride out a shy spell that could creep up on the 23rd. Draft your resolutions on the 27th, and finalize them on the 31st. Then have a good time!

Virgo

You'll have something important to say on the 15th; make sure you air it. By the time your 'you are fantastic' days roll around (the 21st, 22nd and 23rd), you'll have learned a few new things about yourself. Take some breathing room on the 26th, then put your mind to work and start pondering anything and everything you need to think about. The 31st, it looks like you could have a very romantic evening ahead of you.

Libra

When the 13th rolls around, you may ask yourself just where this qualified guide is taking you. The 15th is the day to talk about it, and a good one to make sure you have all those holiday parties penciled in on the right days, too. Get together with your nearest and dearest on the 20th, and on the 25th, bringing your best self to the situation. Make your resolutions on the 30th and on the 31st, get out there -- even if it's cold outside -- and have fun!

Scorpio

Try not to fight with anybody on the 14th, then talk to a close friend about your relationships. On the 17th, whatever you want is what you'll get, and the 23rd is the day to enjoy whatever it is you've obtained. Get ready to revel in some really wonderful 'you' days the 26th and 27th. On the 31st, don't forget to sign off on your New Year's resolution list. Then have a good time!

Sagittarius

On the 12th and 13th, your communications rating is at 1,000 percent! On the 18th, a frisson of mismatched energy falls away and is replaced by your urge to travel and a penchant for good luck. Don't challenge an authority on the 23rd, and you'll be better able to enjoy friends and family. On the 29th, you're brilliant. Have a great time welcoming the New Year on the 31st!

Capricorn

On the 16th, just say 'sure' to romance. Don't take any testy behavior from others personally on the 17th -- some folks just get anxious around the holidays. The 23rd, be as helpful and noncombative as possible; on the 27th, you'll be glad you were. Anybody who didn't know what magic you've been working on behind the scenes will find out on the 30th and 31st -- so have a happy New Year!

Aquarius

This is a month for meeting, greeting. An elderly relative or friend could shed some light on a contemporary problem you're having on the 15th.

The 17th, do any fix-it tasks you need to around the house, and on the 22nd, stay grounded, even if not everyone around you is as rooted as they could be. On the 26th, you'll make a few interesting connections. Sit down and write up those resolutions on the 30th, even if you feel a little scattered. Plenty of pens and paper will help! You know what to do on the 31st -- get out there and have a great time!

Pisces

On the 15th, take the day off and pamper yourself (you'll probably need it!). Focus on your health on the 20th, and from the 21st to the 23rd, think about your relationships. On the 25th, pick a path to follow; then lean on your friends during the 30th and 31st. They'll lean right back, and together, you'll have a wonderful New Year.

Aries

On the 13th, you could start the day slowly, and end it supersonically! Yep, there are just days like that sometimes -- so buckle your seat belt. Do a little nesting on the 18th. You might wash the dishes, reorganize your closets or do some other cleaning. The process will calm you down, and may help you make dust-free decisions by the 21st. On the 25th, tell your loved ones that you, well ... love them. And on the 30th, make sure you have plans (and resolutions!) ready for the 31st.

Taurus

On the 13th, you wrap up a great couple of days feeling ... well, great. Bundle up and get your terrific holi-

day self out there the 16th and 17th, when a festive party or two are on the docket. Watch (and feel and listen and smell) for romance on the 23rd. Take it slow on the 26th -- the holidays could mean letting loose a lot of very deep feelings. On the 30th, spend the day getting grounded, and have a blast on the 31st -- what a year it's been!

Gemini

'What to do for New Year's Eve', after all, without input from the whole group, you could wind up with an 'I don't want to wear a white tie' filibuster. You're on fire the 15th -- you're bright and give off warmth and light. On the 20th you dish it out as well as you take it, especially when it comes to a little family debate. You're in a high-energy mode the 25th. It's a good thing, too, because there's a lot of activity to deal with! On the 31st, take care of any partnership issues right away -- then have a great night!

Cancer

Slow down, and by the 15th you'll realize you did everything on your list, no problem. On the 18th, you'll wrap up a fantastic few days with a nice mug of hot cocoa (and a kiss?). You'll feel extremely emotionally connected on the 23rd. You may have trouble making up your mind on the 27th. However, it'll all be clear by the time you put your resolutions together and raise your glass to the New Year on the 31st!

See what's in the stars for you next month

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Tired of buying into the notion that *Chocolat* and the *English Patient* are must-see classics?? Have you ever strutted into the local video store content in the knowledge that you are about to witness a provocative, life-changing, mind-blowing film?? Then spend the next 2.5 hours thinking of ways to dismember the critic that recommended the abomination currently on the old boob tube?? Me too.

With all that in mind, this month will focus on the so-called classics. Don't waste a sawbuck watching something that some artsy-fartsy movie critic loved because it had a beautiful music score. Trust the Maven, and your five bones will be well-spent.

First off we time-warp back to 1982 to look at what were probably the two most critically-acclaimed pictures of that year. Who didn't love *E.T.*?? Anyone that raised their hand may now flip the page, this column is not for you. Who didn't fall for the loveable little alien dude who just wanted to make it home before he croaked?? A young Drew Barrymore and Henry Thomas (where are you now O Henry?) were almost as cute as the little guy himself.

The concept was fresh and original and captured the hearts of moviegoers of all ages. You laughed, you cried, you laughed some more and 2 hours were gone in a flash. In fact it was the Oscar runner-up that year to our next selection which is.....*Gandhi*. Yes, *Gandhi* beat out *E.T.* for best movie that year. Which is fine if watching Ben Kingsley wander around aimlessly for a couple of hours is your thing. Here's the thing. Just because it happens to be based on a true story doesn't automatically make it profound and important. In this case, it's so dull you'll want to

The Malevolent Movie Maven

by lorne greer

Have you ever strutted into the local video store content in the knowledge that you are about to witness a provocative, life-changing, mind-blowing film??

gouge your eyes out.

Next up we jump over to the war genre, where we review the much-ballyhooed *Thin Red Line*. The Maven was eager to see this one, as it was touted as a war epic to end all war epics. Which would be pretty cool had there actually been any war scenes.

The star-studded cast, which included George Clooney and Sean Penn, were left to sit around, stare at the countryside and silently emote. How many scenes did the actors gaze longingly at flowers and grass fluttering in the wind?? We get it, you're contrasting the hell that is war with the beauty of nature. How 'bout spending one scene on that and the rest on some good old-fashioned fighting?? The Maven had free passes to this one and still felt ripped off when the merciful time came to leave the theatre.

Contrast that with *Saving Private Ryan*, also a 1998 release. Explosions, severed limbs, blood and hand-to-hand combat. A little much for some one supposes, but a realistic look at what World War II was really like. Great cast including Tom Hanks, Matt Damon as Private Ryan himself and the dude that played Chandler's creepy roommate on *Friends*.

Great story as well, and some of the more graphic scenes stick with you for years after. In a nutshell, Hanks is an officer whose job it is to take his men into the war zone to find Private Ryan and bring him home to his family. Why?? All the other Ryan brothers have perished in battle. The question is, should a large group of soldiers be put in jeopardy for the life of just one?? Good question, now go rent it and find out the answer.

Well folks, that's it for this month. Next time around the Maven will look at his personal favorites, horror movies. We'll separate the wheat from the chaff ladies and gents. That is, the ones that merely send the odd chill up the spine, to those that cause the maven to arm himself with a baseball bat, bedside lamp and butcher knife come bedtime. (And I'm not kidding). Sweet dreams my fellow chickens!!

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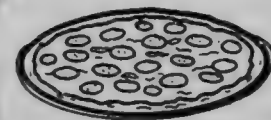
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| Ham ☐ | ☐ Ham |
| Sliced Tomato ☐ | ☐ Sliced Tomato |
| Hot Peppers ☐ | ☐ Hot Peppers |
| Bacon ☐ | ☐ Bacon |
| Mushrooms ☐ | ☐ Mushrooms |
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'Hello George. This's 'Arry from over by Come By Chance in Newfndlan'. A bunch of us were just talking it over and we've decided to declare war on your country.'

'There's me and me friend Alfie, his cousin Tubby and the darts team from the pub. That's eight all together. And we've got two fishing boats, four rifles, t'ree shot guns and a harpoon gun.'

'Well, Harry, you should know that I've got an army of a million men, fully equipped and trained with all the latest in combat weapons, and my navy is second to none with everything from nuclear powered submarines to battleships and aircraft carriers.'

'By Jasus, you don't say! Let me get back to the b'ys and I'll call you tomorrow.'

When George answered the phone the next day Harry said, 'T'e war's still on. We've enlisted t'ree old boys from the Legion. And we've added t'ree ATVs, a tractor and four pickups that still run.'

George said, 'Harry, you should know that I've got 2,000 tanks and 5,000 armoured personnel carriers. And I've added half a million men to my army.'

'Jasus, Mary and Joseph. Let me talk it over with the b'ys and I'll get back to you.'

The next day Harry said, 'We're still coming. Alfie brought in his brother-in-law, Bob, who has an ultralight. We've fitted it up with two 12 gauge shotguns.'

George replied, 'You know I have a formidable air force with 2,000 long range bombers and 4,000 jet fighters using all the latest in laser guided ordnance. And my army is now two million strong.'

'By thunder'n Jasus! I've got to talk this over with the b'ys.'

George answered the phone the next day to be greeted by, 'We've decided to call off the war.'

'What was the deciding point?', asked George.

'T'e bunch of us got together last night in t'e pub over a few beers. We talked for hours but we just can't figure out how we're gonna feed two million prisoners!'

by Peter Charters

There is no doubt that Canada and Newfoundland have shown immense courage and high optimism in conflicts throughout the twentieth century.

During the First World War the Newfoundland Regiment fought with such vigour and determination they were the only unit to be awarded the right to add the word "Royal" to their name while hostilities were still ongoing. Thus they became the "Royal Newfoundland Regiment".

Canada's forces acquitted themselves so well in battle that they were sometimes used as "storm troopers" to frighten the Germans. At the end of the war this "outpost colony" was given the high honour of a seat at the armistice negotiating table. Again in the Second World War and in the Korean conflict, Canada can be proud of the achievements and the character of those who fought for us and those who supported the fighters and our Allies, like the Merchant Marine and the war workers.

However, where Canada stands out like a beacon is in the latter part of the century after Lester B. Pearson and the United Nations started the world on the formula to regular conflict avoidance. Since then, Canadians have served in more U.N. Peacekeeping and U.N. Peacemaking missions and Canada has supplied more personnel to those missions than any other country on earth.

It is impossible to guess how history would have evolved without those peacekeeping efforts but it is safe to say that the world would have been a much more dangerous place without them. One wonders how many of those stifled conflicts could have led to much broader conflagrations.

But take note of one very important point - Canada has never started a war. When necessary, our service men and women have responded with courage, honour and vigour. And for the last fifty years we have been putting out brush fires before they became forest fires.

This is where the story above really diverges from reality. We have never declared war on a country not already at war with our allies. But if Stephen Harper had been prime minister in 2003 he says he would have had our country join with the USA to declare war on a sovereign nation, assuring us that invented fairy tale reasons made the decision mandatory.

On March 20, 2003, in the House of Commons, Stephen Harper said, "It is inherently dangerous to allow a country such as X* to retain weapons of

mass destruction, particularly in light of its past aggressive behavior. If the world community fails to disarm X*, we fear that other rogue states will be encouraged to believe that they too can have these most deadly of weapons to systematically defy international resolutions and that the world will do nothing to stop them."

X* - The country Stephen Harper named was "Iraq" who did not have weapons of mass destruction but did comply with international resolutions, albeit grudgingly and under the threat of force. But read it again, substituting "America" who actually has and has used weapons of mass destruction and has openly defied international resolutions.

Just think of the benefits if Stephen Harper had been prime minister. We could be spending several hundred million taxpayer dollars every month. We could welcome home a steady stream of casualties. We could be terrorist targets!

We could declare code yellow and code orange alerts whenever some nebulous information indicated that some tiny group somewhere had plans to blow up something. We could treat all our friends as potential enemies. We could sneer at all those countries that think it is wrong to declare war on whoever we like, whenever we like. We could live in fear.

Have you noticed that since George W. proclaimed the "War on Terrorism" the fear of terrorism in the USA has risen sharply? Could it be that the "War on Terrorism" has actually increased the number of terrorists in the world? Could it be that history will judge George W. to be the biggest terrorist of all?

A distant relative who lives in the American midwest and who has property not far from me used to visit two or three times a year. But after the Iraq war was underway in 2003, a friend of his in the FBI said that the bridges at Detroit and Port Huron are terrorist targets. He has not been back since. Meanwhile, his property reverts to nature; he just pays the taxes and the power and phone bills.

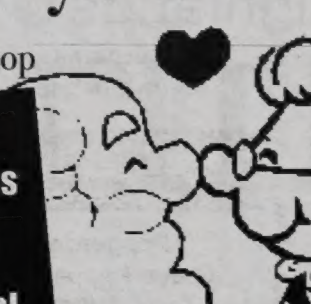
Of course, if Stephen Harper becomes prime minister there's still time to help the USA in the Iraq conflict just as they helped us in World War I and World War II. We just have to wait until three years into the fighting when the belligerents are getting tired and resources are running low, then jump in and, after the hostilities end, proclaim that we saved their bacon.

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Getting hip in the Highlands

by: Jan Simon

On the road to recovery

Many people in the Highlands are facing the prospect of Hip or Knee Replacement and are nervous at the thought. As I sit here writing this article I am two months post surgery. I can't believe the instant relief from pain and have to pinch myself to make sure it's really been done.

A lot of people are sent to Toronto for this type of surgery. I am here to tell you all that Peterborough is a fine place to have had my surgery. The Surgeon, Dr. B and the Anesthetist, Dr. H. were terrific. Great sense of humour and they both had a way of instilling confidence and a feeling that you were in good hands. I thought Dr. H was going to serenade me through the operation, but the nurses pretended to be a little distressed at the prospect.

The operating room was small and kind of reminded me of an M&M Meat shop with it's one wall of glass doors with strange looking stuff lurking behind them. The OR staff were great, friendly and helped to relax me with easy conversation, not drugs. One nurse had a cottage on Little Cardiff Lake and the other on Jordan Lake. We talked about what brought us to the area and then it was time for lights out.

The deed was done at 10:15 am and I awoke in my room at 2pm completely lucid, and most importantly out of pain. Of course there was tenderness to deal with post surgery, but it was more like suddenly discovering you had a bruise that was a little tender.

Home on the fourth day, with the help of my friends, I enjoyed a rotation of people helping out in the initial days. By the end of the first week I was longing for time alone and wanted to be self-sufficient again. You know, I can't imagine that there is a better place for medical care than here in

Haliburton County. The nurse came daily until the incision was dry, the blood girl (Drac) came twice weekly to check blood levels for Cumadin (blood thinner) in order to avoid clotting problems, and the physiotherapist came weekly to check on my progress. My family Doctor called me with the results of my bloodwork and her recommendations for correcting it. Where else could you get such personal care.

The outpatient physiotherapy department at Haliburton kept me going with exercise and pain relief until the surgeon was able to fit me in. They were able to increase my mobility by 5-15% over a three month period. There is a wonderful new tool which has been set up between the government and the doctors called WOMAC. It is an assessment tool to determine the degree of pain and your ability to function in various daily tasks. The surgeons have been given extra hours in the operating room in return for encouraging their patients to participate in the "Joint Replacement Registry Program", using the WOMAC as a tool to ensure that those in most difficulty are taken first for surgery. This is a government program which is in place to ensure that those in the most need are taken first.

I continue to get stronger every day and want to say "Thank You" to all who have assisted and supported me in this very rejuvenating experience. They have given me back a pain-free existence. The only down side to this story is no driving for six weeks. Oh well, a small price to pay, I think. The six week check was a breeze and the end result is a new hip that works well. I think I should polish up my dancing shoes.

Look out Haliburton, I'm on the road again.

Jan Simon

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It's a tough job, but all photos by Andrea Hillo



Cutie #3



Cutie #4



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Cutie #6

December Couriercutie

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With all the talk about elections, we decided we needed to vote on something as well. So we want you to help us crown the Courier King. Please indicate with a check mark, your choice for Courier Cutie 2005. Our lucky winner will receive an exciting prize package and of course earn the title Courier King Cutie 2005!

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